YOWAMUSHI PEDAL

WATARU WATANABE

5

YOWAMUSHI PEDAL

WATARU WATANABE

YOWAMUSHI PEDAL

5

WATARU
WATANABE

YOWAMUSHI PEDAL

STORY & CHARACTER INTRODUCTION

The 1,000-kilometer training camp ride to determine the members of Sohoku's Inter-High team has ended. Despite completing the course, Sakamichi had given up hope of competing in the Inter-High due to his lack of bicycling experience, technical skill, and general know-how compared to the other members. However, team captain Kinjou judges Sakamichi's "ability to accomplish the unexpected" as a worthy trait to bring to the race and officially makes him a member of the Sohoku Inter-High team. The pressure of living up to the team jersey seems to be too much for Sakamichi at first, but Kinjou explains to him that what truly makes an "ultimate team" is its members' ability to support one another. This reminds Sakamichi of what he is capable of doing for his team, thus reassuring him. With a unified front, Sohoku looks toward the Inter-High, ready to compete!!

As they make their preparations, Kinjou thinks back to the previous summer's Inter-High, when he had battled one-on-one against Fukutomi of Hakone Academy. The fateful incident that occurred between them that day is finally coming to light...

SAKAMICHI ONODA

Preferred Bike: **Chromoly Frame Road Bike, Mommy Bike** (maker unknown)

Cycling Style: **High Cadence Climber**

Sakamichi is an anime-loving high school student who rides his mommy bike 90km round trip up extreme slopes every week to visit Akiba. Hearing that he has potential as a cyclist, Sakamichi joins his high school's Bicycle Racing Club.

SANGAKU MANAMI

Preferred Bike: **LOOK** (France)
Cycling Style: **Climber**
A first-year from Hakone Academy who met Sakamichi on the hilly roads of Mt. Hakone. He loves hills so much, he smiles while climbing them.

HAKONE ACADEMY CYCLING CLUB

CAPTAIN FUKUTOMI

SHOUKICHI NARUKO

Preferred Bike: **PINARELLO** (Italy)
Cycling Style: **Sprinter**
A cyclist from Kansai whose trademark is his red hair. He is nicknamed "the Speedster of Naniwa."

MIKI KANZAKI

Miki is extremely passionate about bicycles and is a bit of a cycling otaku!

MAKISHIMA

TADOKORO

TESHIMA

SOHOKU HIGH CYCLING CLUB THIRD-YEARS

CAPTAIN KINJOU

SECOND-YEARS

ADYAGI

SHUNSUKE IMAIZUMI

Preferred Bike: **SCOTT** (USA)
Cycling Style: **All-Rounder**
Aiming to become the world's fastest cyclist, Imaizumi stoically continues his daily training. His interest was piqued by Sakamichi after their climbing race up the Rear Gate Slope.

VOL.5 YOWAMUSHI PEDAL CONTENTS

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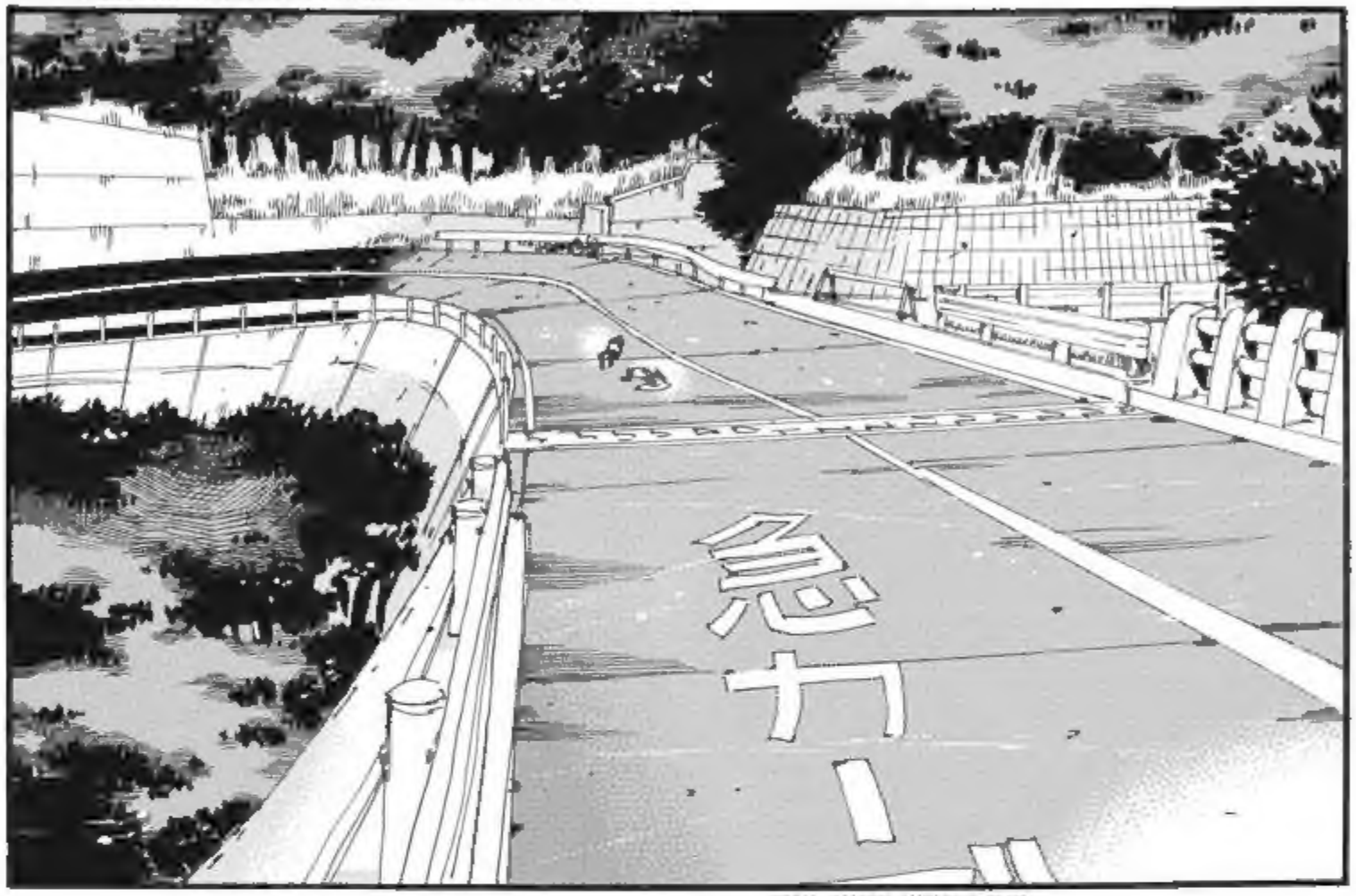
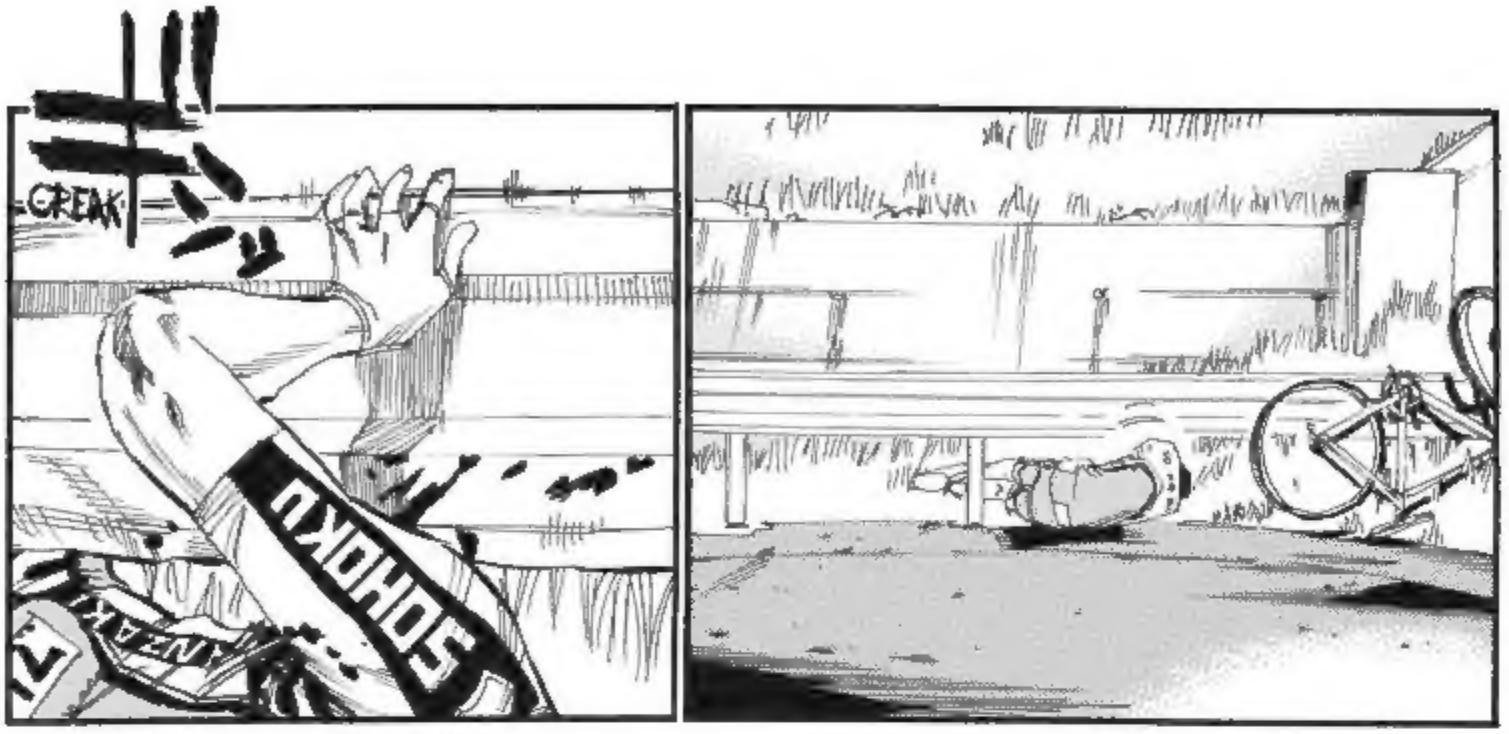
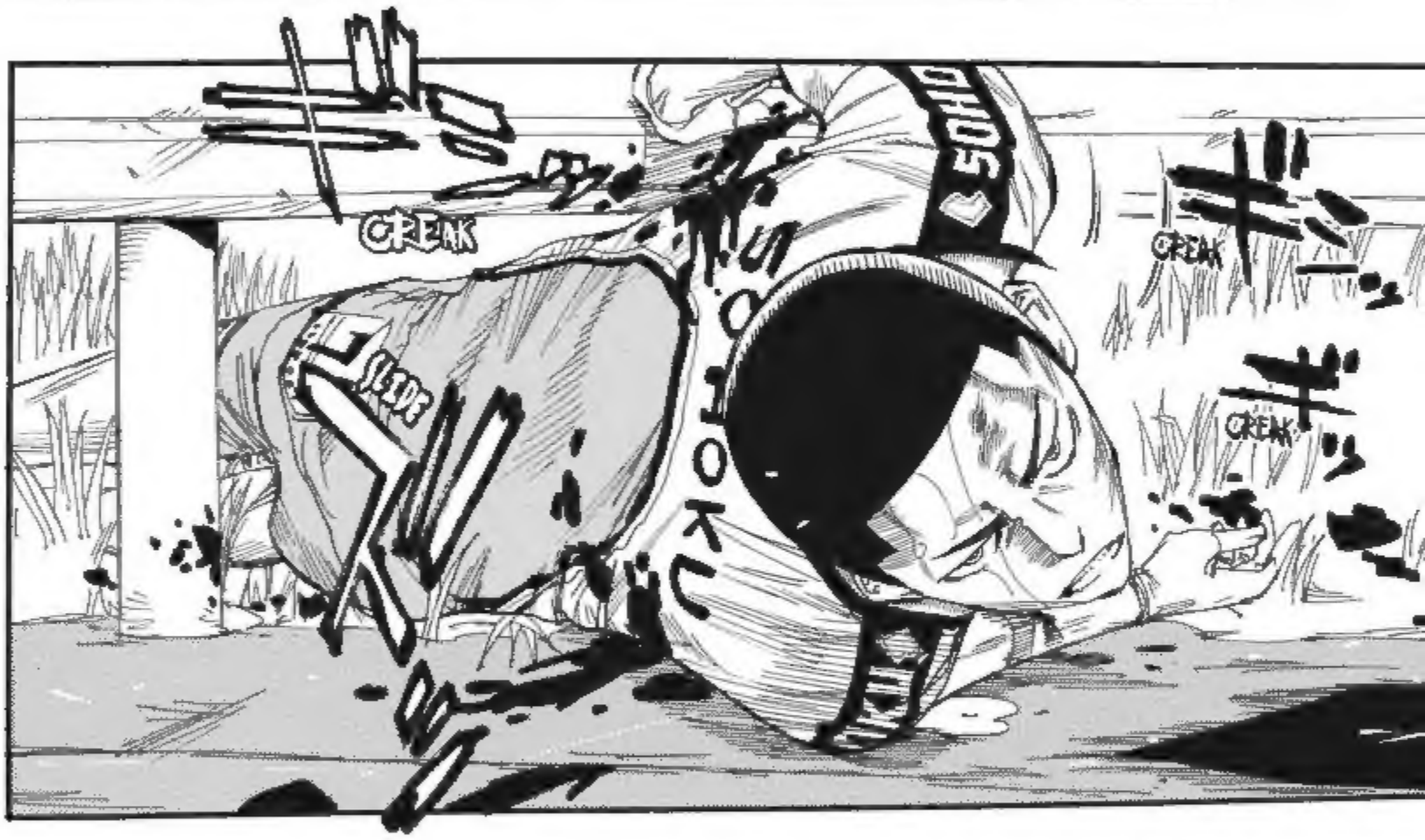
箱根学園

RIDE.70 CRUSHING DEFEAT



SIGN: SHARP CURVE AHEAD


CREAK
SOHOKO


CREAK
SOHOKO
CREAK
CREAK
SLIDE

DRAG
ズル
KIN
…
……
SLIDE

HAA ...

HAA ...

TREMBLE

I.....

TREMBLE

DRIBBLE

HAHH !

HAA ...

HAA ...

HAA ...

HAH !

DRIP

DRIP

HAA.

HAH HAH. ...

HAA.

BEND

SOHOKU

!!

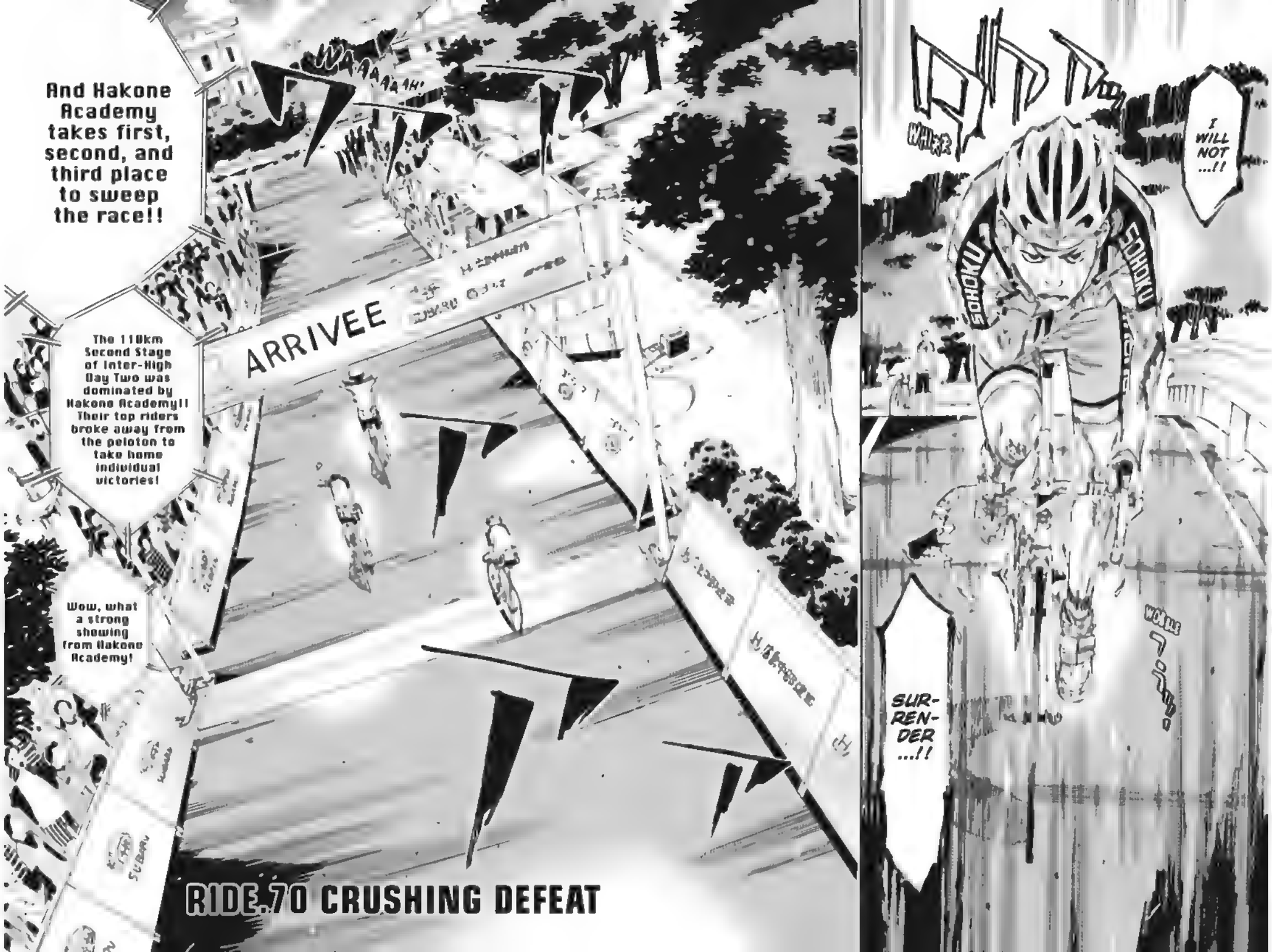
... THE ACE ...

I... AM ...

.....

GRIP

KRICK


And Hakone Academy takes first, second, and third place to sweep the race!!
The 118km Second Stage of Inter-High Day Two was dominated by Hakone Academy!! Their top riders broke away from the peloton to take home individual victories!
Wow, what a strong showing from Hakone Academy!
ARRIVEE
WAAAAAH!
I WILL NOT ...!!
SOHOKU
SOHOKU
SUR-REN-DER ...!!
WOAH!

RIDE.70 CRUSHING DEFEAT

In 29th Place, Shimane Technical School!

The finishers are coming one after the next now!

WAAAH

HAH. HAH!

HAA...

HAH. HAH ...

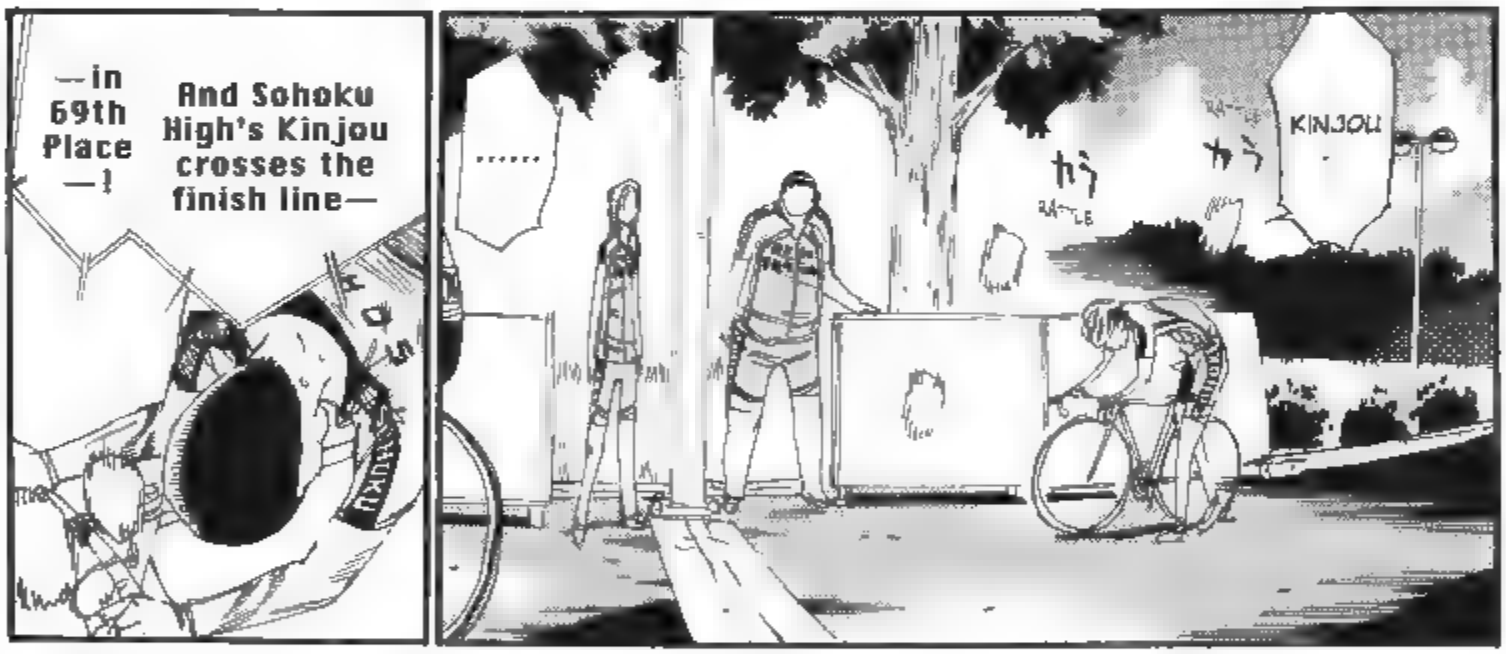
HAA ...

HAH ... ...

PUSH

PUSH

PUSH


—in 69th Place —!
And Sohoku High's Kinjou crosses the finish line—
.....
KINJOU
KINJOU
KINJOU

WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED!? HOW BAD ARE YOU HURT!?

FORGET THE BIKE!

JUST WHAT... HAPP...?

JERSEY: SOHOKU HIGH BICYCLE RACING CLUB

I WASN'T ABLE TO FULFILL MY DUTY AS YOUR ACE.

I'M SORRY.

.....

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT YOU CRASHED!

IT—

I'LL HAVE TO APOLOGIZE... TO THE THIRD-YEARS LATER AS WELL.

YEAH. I JUST WASN'T STRONG ENOUGH TO... PREVENT IT.

.....

WERE... WERE YOU ALONE?

SMACK

I'M SORRY ..

高体 排球部

GOD-DAMN IT AAAAALL !!!

SOUFF

HE'S WRONG.

COME ON, TADO-KORO-CCHI. THAT'S ENOUGH.

YOU CRASHED !!?

I'M SO. SORRY

WE KILLED OURSELVES TRAINING!! DAY AFTER DAY!!

I THOUGHT... I THOUGHT THIS YEAR, FOR SURE, WE'D—!!

BANG

AND AFTER ALL THAT...

I GRABBED HIS JERSEY...

...AND MADE HIM CRASH.

I'M SORRY.

KINJOU PASSED ME, AND WITHOUT THINKING, I .

I REACHED AFTER HIM...

I'M SORRY. I KNOW I'VE DONE SOMETHING TRULY TERRIBLE.

YOU... YOU'RE FUKUTOMI FROM... HAKONE ACADEMY.

YOU WERE RIDING IN FRONT WITH KINJOU... BUT... WHAT!?

...I AM WEAK.

ALL BECAUSE ...

THERE WERE ONLY... TWO KILO-METERS LEFT...

CRASSH
WHAM
BASH
ARE YOU KIDDING ME!!?
SOHOKU
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
MURMUR
MURMUR
A FIGHT?
I'M SORRY.
HEH!
HEH!
HEH!
HEH!
TADO-KORO-CCHI...
I KNOW IT DOESN'T MAKE UP FOR WHAT I DID...
...BUT I INTEND TO WITHDRAW FROM TOMORROW'S RACE.

THAT DOESN'T CHANGE ANY-THING !!

YOU'LL PULL A DIRTY TRICK WHEN NO ONE'S LOOKING— IS THAT IT!?

YOU HAKONE ACADEMY GUYS— YOU'LL DO ANYTHING IF IT MEANS WINNING!?

IS THIS HOW YOU GUYS DO THINGS !?

WE ...

WE ...

DON'T YOU GET THAT WE WERE HAVING A REAL RACE HERE!?

DON'T YOU HAVE ANY RESPECT FOR CYCLING ...!?

WE'RE NOT BLESSED LIKE HAKONE ACADEMY!

...ONLY HAVE ONE ACE!!

...WILL CHANGE TODAY'S RESULTS.

HOKU

THAT'S ENOUGH, TADOKORO. NOTHING YOU DO TO HIM...

DO YOU KNOW... HOW HARD WE WORKED FOR THIS RACE ...?

W-WAIT! THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN RIDE ON DAY THREE— NOT WITH THOSE INJURIES!

!

YOU'LL —

...IS GET MY BIKE FIXED FOR TOMORROW...

...AND REST.

WHAT WE NEED TO DO...

IN A ROAD RACE, WHO WINS AND WHO LOSES ...
...IS DECIDED ON THE ROAD.
KINJOU...
...UNTIL SOMEONE CROSSES THE FINISH LINE!!
NO ONE KNOWS WHO'LL WIN...
THAT'S WHY WE'LL RIDE.
YOU HAVE TO FACE THE ROAD AND RIDE IT...
...OR YOU'VE ALREADY LOST.
EVERY STEP, NO MATTER HOW SMALL, CARRIES WEIGHT!
EVEN IF WE DON'T WIN THIS TIME...
...THAT STEP WE TAKE WILL BRING US FORWARD. SO IN A MONTH...
...OR MAYBE TWO, OR EVEN IN HALF A YEAR FROM NOW...
...IT'LL DEFINITELY COUNT FOR SOMETHING!
THAT'S WHY I'LL NEVER GIVE UP...
...EVEN IF IT TAKES AN ENTIRE YEAR!
SOHOKU
KANZAKI

HIS WILL TO WIN, AS THEIR ACE...!

I INTEND TO LEAD SOHOKU...

THOOM

...TO VICTORY!!

...HIS WILL ...!!

THAT PRESSURE I FELT IN THAT MOMENT...

IT WAS...

HE...IS STRONG...

HE'S FAR STRONGER THAN ME...

SHINGO... KINJOU...

...THAT THERE'S NO WAY I COULD WIN.

MAYBE SOMETHING INSIDE OF ME INSTINCTIVELY KNEW...

IN THAT MOMENT, I... REACHED OUT MY RIGHT HAND TO HIM.

BUZZ

BUZZ

BUZZ

MY INJURIES HAVE HEALED...

.....

WE...

VIVAAH

WE WILL CLAIM VICTORY THIS YEAR.

TREK

...ARE STRONG !!

RIDE.71 THE INTER-HIGH BEGINS

FUJISAWA CITY KANAGAWA PREFECTURE

ENOSHIMA

WELCOME TO ENOSHIMA

IS NORMALLY BUSTLING WITH TOURISTS, AN ATMOSPHERIC SIGHTSEEING SPOT.

MT. TANZAWA

ATSUGI

TOWARD TOKYO

TOWARD KAMAKURA

KAMAKURA

ENOSHIMA

MIURA PENINSULA

SAGAMI BAY

THIS TINY ISLAND— THE SOLE ISLAND ALONG SAGAMI BAY'S LONG, UNBROKEN COASTLINE

...BEGINS HERE.
THE THREE-DAY SUMMER INTER-HIGH ROAD RACE...
SUBARU
START
山理学園
Sanri Academy

SOHOKU
RIDE.71 THE INTER-HIGH BEGINS

CHATTER
GOING THE WAY
CHATTER
宮崎東校
綾東崎
CLICK
CLICK
CLATTER
CLATTER
CHATTER
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
CHATTER
CHATTER
大会のため
通行止
ROCA

SIGN: FOR BICYCLE ROAD RACE, NO ENTRY

SIGNS: ICE CREAM, SHAVED ICE, LOCAL SPECIALTY; BOXES MOUNTAIN SPRING WATER

全国高等学校総合体育大会 神奈川県大会
インターハイ 自転車ロードレース
Inter High

FLUTTER

HOW ABOUT SOME ICE CREAM?

WE'VE GOT COLD JUICE TOO!

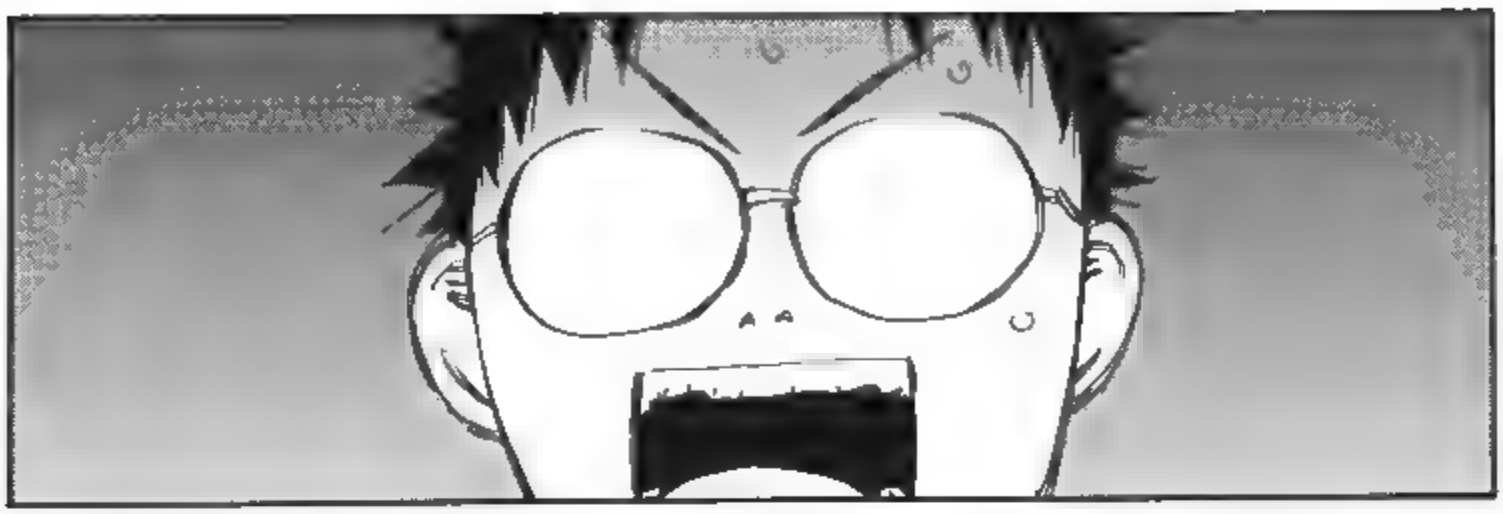
STEP RIGHT UP!

VROOOM TODD..

KRSSSHH

WE'VE ALSO GOT ENOSHIMA'S LOCAL SPECIALTY, OCTOPUS CRACKERS—!

BANNER: NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC TOURNAMENT - KANAGAWA PREFECTURE INTER-HIGH BICYCLE ROAD RACE - WELCOME KANAGAWA PREFECTURAL TOURIST ASSOCIATION, ENOSHIMA



WAAAH! THERE'S SO MANY PEOPLE!!
CHATTER
SCOTT
SCOTT
SCOTT
CHATTER

A FESTIVAL THIS IS A FESTIVAL, ISN'T IT?
CHATTER
FLAP
FLAP
CHATTER

AND SO MANY BICYCLES !!

CALM DOWN, ONODA-KUN.

WAAH!! THERE'S EVEN A STAGE OVER THERE!

HEY! ARE YA LISTENIN', ONODA-KUN?

HEEEY!

A HUNDRED AND TWENTY RIDERS...

CAN WE REALLY WIN? I DON'T.. I DON'T

HEY!

AAAAUGH!! HE LOOKS REALLY STRONG!!

THERE'S NO HELPING IT. IT'S HIS FIRST REAL RACE, RIGHT?

HE WAS TOTALLY NORMAL ON THE BUS.

AI YAI YAI

VWAH

HYAAAH! DAMN, IT'S HOT TODAY!!

TUG

IT'S A SAUNA OUT HERE.

GLUG

IT'LL BE THE SAME FOR EVERY-ONE!!

GAH-HA-HA-HA! IT DOESN'T MATTER.

IT'S GOING TO BE...

...A BRUTAL RACE.

VWAH

YOU JUST FOCUS ON YOUR RIDING, TADO-KORO-SAN!!

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF ALL YOUR FOOD AND WATER RESUPPLIES.

CLASP

CLASP

I'M COUNTING ON YOU GUYS!!

I-I'VE NEVER PRACTICED RESUPPLY-ING...

CREAK

CREAK

HUH!?

HEY! ONODA-KUN!! HEY!!

WE NEED TO GO REGISTER AND GET OUR NUMBER TAGS FOR THE RACE!!

LET'S GO!

HE'S JUST SOME TEAM'S COACH!

HEY!!

YOU THINK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS LOOK THAT OLD!!?

WAAUGH!! HE LOOKS STRONG TOO!!

LUMBER

HEEEY!

YOU'RE GONNA BE FINE! C'MON, DEEP BREATHS!

I'M GOING TO DROP MY BOTTLE, I JUST KNOW IT..

POKE

DON'T WORRY! IT'S GONNA BE TESHIMA-SAN AND AOYAGI-SAN DOIN' THE RESUPPLY, SO THEY'LL DO A GOOD JOB!!

OOPS

WHAT IF I...DROP MY WATER BOTTLE WHEN I'M TRYING TO GRAB IT!?

OKAY!?

PAT

HOLD OFF ON YOUR NERVES...

...UNTIL YOU'RE ACTUALLY RIDING, 'KAY?

WHAT, DID YOU FOR-GET?

THIS YEAR ... ...AT THIS INTER-HIGH ...

... WE'RE GONNA DO IT.

THE SIX OF US.

WHAT I'M HERE TO DO...

DON'T FORGET WHAT YOU'RE HERE TO DO. IF YOU LOSE TIME ON ONE THING, YOU CAN MAKE IT UP ELSE-WHERE.

AND IF YOU DROP YOUR BOTTLE...

...JUST PICK IT UP.

WE'RE HERE...

...TO TAKE THE TOP PRIZE, REMEMBER?

AND...

NOW LET'S GIT!

YEAH.

THAT'S RIGHT...WE'RE GOING TO WIN TOGETHER...!!

...THERE'S ONE OTHER THING I NEED TO DO HERE.

I'M GOING TO RETURN THIS TO MANAMI-KUN—!!

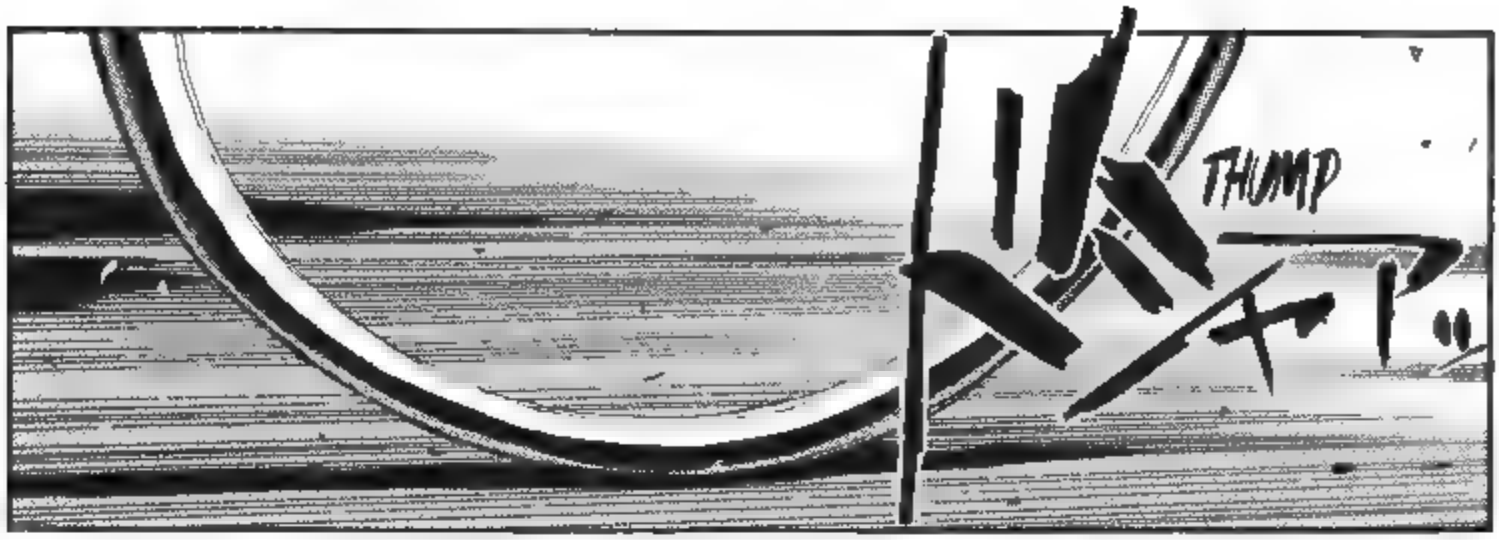
SHIMANO

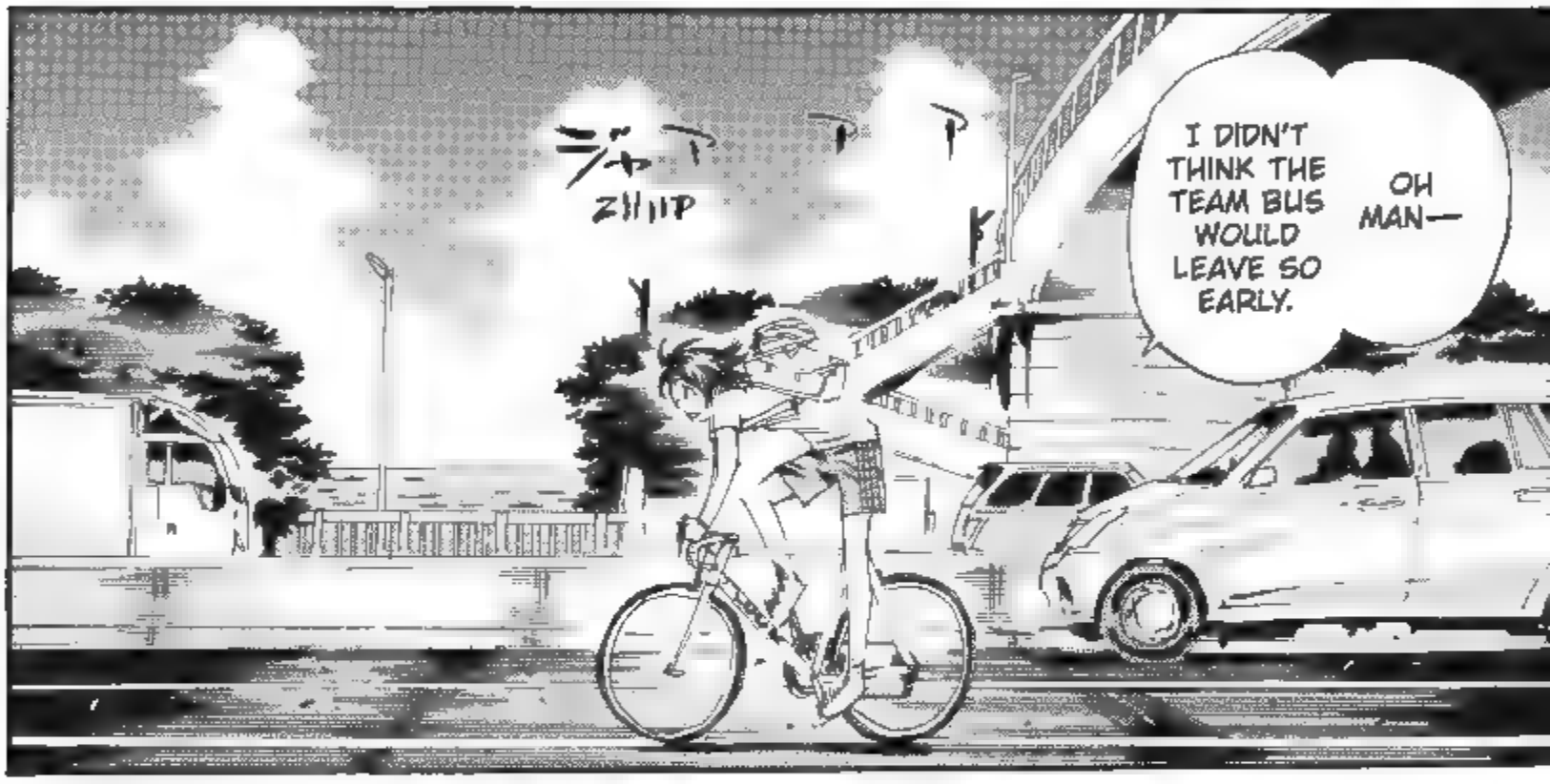
YES, SIR!!

Y—

NOD

strike


THUMP


ZIIIP
I DIDN'T THINK THE TEAM BUS WOULD LEAVE SO EARLY.
OH MAN—

THEY'LL DEFINITELY BE MAD IF I'M LATE TODAY, HUH?
I WONDER IF THE OPENING CEREMONY'S ALREADY STARTED —
ZIIIP
DOLPHINS

NO! REALLY? I DON'T GET THAT VIBE FROM YOU.

VROOM

SORRY, I'M ACTUALLY COMPETING.

VROOM

AHH, I'M AFRAID ONLY COMPETITORS' BICYCLES ARE ALLOWED BEYOND THIS POINT

KREE

CHATTER

サイクルロードレース

BANNER: BICYCLE ROAD RACE

HAKONE ACAD-EMY!?

I'M THE SIXTH MEMBER OF HAKONE ACADEMY'S TEAM.

DOLPHIN

176

全国高等学校体育大会

TAG: NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC TOURNAMENT

HM?

IS THERE SOME KIND OF MEANING TO THE NUMBER 11?

SHARP

A...A REAL NUMBER TAG!!

IT'S SO COOL!!

MAKE SURE THEY'RE VISIBLE THERE ARE PINS THERE FOR YOU TO USE

YOU PIN 'EM TO THE BACK OF YOUR JERSEY, ON BOTH FLANKS.

941

FLUTTER

171

...GOES FROM ONE THROUGH SIX... THAT'S YOUR NUMBER WITHIN YOUR TEAM.

THE RIGHT-MOST DIGIT...

THERE IS.

FOR EACH SCHOOL, WHOEVER WEARS THAT NUMBER IS THEIR TEAM'S ACE.

21

BE IT 21, OR 51, OR EVEN 121... THOSE ARE ALL ACE NUMBERS.

THE ACE...!!

KINJOU IS NUMBER ONE.

SOHOKU

171

171

AND THOSE NUMBERS...

THAT'S RIGHT... WITH TWENTY SCHOOLS COMPETING, THERE'LL BE NUMBERS THROUGH 200.

...ROUGHLY INDICATE HOW THE SCHOOL DID IN LAST YEAR'S INTER-HIGH...!

OH! THEN THE FIRST TWO DIGITS MUST BE OUR SCHOOL'S NUMBER?

BY THE WAY, I'M 173 AND TADO-KORO'S 172.

SO EVERYONE WHO HAS A "ONE" AS THEIR LAST DIGIT IS REALLY STRONG.....

WELL, SINCE THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THE SAME SCHOOLS WILL QUALIFY EVERY YEAR, IT'S NOT A PERFECT REPRESENTATION OF LAST YEAR'S RANKINGS.

THAT'S WHY WE'VE GOT THE 170s.

WE DID HORRIBLY LAST YEAR.

BARUMP

CHATTER

CHATTER

FOOSH

BUT THERE'S ONE THING... THAT'S AN ABSOLUTE GIVEN EVERY YEAR.

KANK

VIVAAH!

HERE THEY COME!!

CHATTER

TO THE WINNERS OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S RACE...

総北

CHATTER

WHOA!!

HERE THEY COME!!

WOOO!

AWE-SOME!

THEY REALLY BRING THEIR OWN VIBE!

...SET OF SINGLE-DIGIT TAGS!!
...GO THE ONE AND ONLY...
VIVAAH
箱根学園
3
4
THESE SINGLE-DIGIT TAGS ARE A MARK OF THEIR STRENGTH—

.....

HAKONE ACADEMY .....!!

ZING

IT'S HAKONE ACAD-EMY!!

HUH?

HUH?

HE'S NOT WITH THEM?

POKE

POKE

STILL AT THE EN-TRANCE

LISTEN, YOU. . YOU NEED TO WAIT UNTIL HQ CAN CONFIRM YOUR STORY.

HMM.

UM—COULD YOU LET ME PASS NOW?

MANAMI-KUN!!

RRRRRRRUUUUMBLE

RIDE.72 ONE MORE REUNION

And now, if you'll come up to the stage...

4

3

VIVAH

HEY, CHECK OUT THEIR TAGS. NUMBER THREE... NUMBER FOUR...

HAKONE ACADEMY'S GOING UP ON STAGE!

THEY'RE REALLY INTIMIDATING!

THEY'RE FAR FROM US TRIPLE-DIGIT AND DOUBLE-DIGIT TEAMS..

53

113

WOOOOO!

THE ONLY ONES WHO GET SINGLE-DIGIT TAGS ARE LAST YEAR'S WINNERS!!

VWAAAAH

EACH TEAM HAS SIX RIDERS, SO THEY HAVE SINGLE-DIGIT TAGS ONE THROUGH SIX!!

5

THERE'S NUMBER FIVE!! THEY'RE SINGLE-DIGIT TAGS!

Last year's winning school and this year's Kanagawa Prefecture representative in the Inter-High—please welcome the team from Hakone Academy!
THOOM
THE SYMBOL OF ULTIMATE POWER!!
箱根学園
KANAGAWA
HAKOGAKU
CHEER
THERE THEY ARE! THE REIGNING CHAMPS, HAKONE ACADEMY!!
WHOA! HAKONE ACADEMY!!
RIDE.72
ONE MORE REUNION
LIKE HELL YOU DID.
WHEW!
MADE IT IN TIME.
FLUTTER
6

.....

THE GIRLS ARE ALL STARING AT ME!!

UH-OH.

WOOoo!

SHUT UP! SHE'S JUST BEING SHY!!

AND NOW SHE'S LOOKED AWAY

AH! SEE THAT GIRL ON THE RIGHT IN THE CHECKERED DRESS? SHE'S DEFINITELY LOOKING AT ME.

BUT THEY'RE FOCUSED ON ME!!

I THINK THEY'RE JUST STARING AT THE STAGE

CHATTER

A SEC-OND-YEAR!?

THAT GUY WITH THE SHAVED HEAD IS A SECOND-YEAR! THE ONE ON THE FAR RIGHT.

.....!!

YOU MEAN THE GUY WITH THE NUMBER SIX TAGS?

WAIT A SEC!

THAT ONE ON THE FAR LEFT... LOOK...!

THAT'S IZUMIDA. I'VE SEEN HIS NAME AT A LOT OF KANTOU AREA RACES.

DESPITE HOW DEEP THEIR BENCH IS...THIS SECOND-YEAR MANAGED TO GET AN INTER-HIGH SPOT? WOW...

WHY ISN'T HE WEARING BIKE SHORTS LIKE EVERYONE ELSE?

箱根学園

HAKONE GAKU

WHAT!?

IS HE SUBBING IN BECAUSE SOMEONE'S SICK? OR IS THIS A MISPRINT!?

高等学校

5

6

EITHER WAY, THIS MUST BE A MISTAKE...

HUH!?

...A FIRST-YEAR!?

MANAMI, THE WIZARD OF TARDINESS ...!!

I WASN'T IN TIME TO CHANGE MY SHORTS.

DOOM

HE'S JUST IN NORMAL SHORTS YOU'D WEAR TO THE BEACH.

PAPER: KONE ACADEMY MIDA - SECOND-YEAR, NO. 5; NAMI - FIRST-YEAR, NO. 6

ZING

THOOM

KINJOU!!

FUKUTOMI!!

GLARE

Now then, let's hear from our champions about their aspirations for this year.

HAA

HFF!

HAA

EXCU—

ONOMIYA

EXCUSE ME... PARDON ME...!

HAA...

HAA...

HAA...

THRUST

I MADE IT...

...MANAMI-KUN!!

BOOM
AH HA HA HA HA!
あはははは!
ME TOO.
I MADE IT HERE TOO!!
JAB
Saka-michi-kun, you're here!!
NOD
WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW?
Err, right... Was that his goal? Something about... climbing uphill roads...?
AH-
HA
HA
HA!
SOHOKU
SOHOKU
14

PAPER: .. NAGAWA TOURNAMENT PROGRAM

...JUST TO BATTLE YOU!!

I'VE COME ALL THE WAY TO THE INTER-HIGH...

SOHOKU

105

THAT BICYCLE ……

!!

SOHOKU

!

FLUTTER

私立京都伏見高等学校

光太郎

SOME-WHERE ON THESE GROUNDS —

HE MUST BE HERE.

I KNOW HE'S HERE...!

...NO. IT'S NOT HIS.

IT'S SIMILAR-LOOKING, BUT...

PAPER: PRIVATE KYOTO-FUSHIMI HIGH SCHOOL, THIRD-YEAR KOUTAROU ISHIGAKI; TOMOYA IHARA; THIRD-YEAR AKIHISA TSUJI; SECOND-YEAR NOBU...

I just want to give my absolute all in this race.

I'VE RIDDEN MY HEART OUT...!

...ALL FOR THIS DAY.

OOo

I'VE TRAINED MYSELF HALF TO DEATH FOR THIS.

OOH!

THE SHAME YOU BROUGHT ON ME THAT DAY...!

HOKU

YOU PUT FIVE FULL MINUTES BETWEEN US OVER THE THREE HILLS OF THAT RACE.

SOHOKU

...I'M HERE NOW TO PAY IT ALL BACK TO YOU.

MIDOUSUJI!!

...BOTH PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY STRONGER NOW!!

SHOKU

I'M...

RUMBLE

SCRAPE

What school are you from?

Hello there.

'ey.

Now, let's hear some aspirations from other competitors as well.

!!

—!!

Kyoto... Kyoto-Fushi-mi.

WHERE IS HE...?

AH-HAH! FOUND YA, HOTSHOT! WHERE'D YOU GO?

THAT'S MIDOUSUJI'S SCHOOL— COULD IT BE...? NO...

DASH

Nope. It's mine.

Ehhh !?

Is this your friend's bicycle?

Hm? This bike seems a little small for someone your height.

SHORTS: KYOTO-FUSHIMI HIGH SCHOOL

!!

So it's lighter, see?

A smaller frame uses less material.

Err...But with your height, something with a larger frame, like this bike over here, would fit you better.

's fine.

Th-
that's...
a rather
unusual
looking
setup...

To make up
for the fit,
I take the
saddle...

...and the
handle-
bars, and
extend
them out
like this.

91

DE ROSA

LEMME
BORROW
THAT.

Huh
!?

So what
are your
goals
for this
year?

...TO
SHAVE
OFF
SOME
RIDING
WEIGHT.

WELL...
IT'S
JUST
A LI'L
SOME-
THIN'...

SPRING

JERSEY: KYOTO-FUSHIMI

...to crush ...

...Hakone Academy !!!

箱根学校

JERSEY, KYOTO-FUSHIMI HIGH SCHOOL
And I'm the man who's going to use this Inter-High as my springboard onto the world stage.
...Akira Midou-suji-kun.
So remember me, 'kay?
CHATTER
WHAT!?
RIGHT IN THEIR FACES!!
WITH HAKONE ACADEMY!?
IS HE PICKING A FIGHT!?
I'm tag number 91.
Kyoto-Fushimi first-year student...
箱根学園
高等学校

OH. THE GUY FROM CHIBA.

MIDOUSUJI!!

SOU!

WUSSY-ZUMI-KUN!

ZING

JANNNG

RIDE.73 MIDOUSUJI

AHH, THAT TRY-HARD EXPRESSION...

RUMBLE

NOW I REMEMBER...

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HASN'T IT?

RUMBLE

ZING

MIDOUSUJI!!

RIDE.73 MIDOUSUJI

THE MEMORY IS JUST SO FUNNY.

SORRY.

IMA-IZUMI ... KUN.

WHAT'S GOING ON, HOT-SHOT?

DO YOU KNOW THAT KYOTO GUY?

GWARE

...CAME HERE TO SAY THAT!

I...WILL RACE YOU FAIR AND SQUARE !!

I...

THEY DON'T NEED TO HEAR A THING.

HEY, WHY DON'T WE TELL EVERYONE ABOUT IT?

SHAAA

THE RACE THAT DAY...

IT WAS JUST SO FUNNY... SO FUNNY!

WHAT YOU SAID— JUST NOW—

AND YOUR FACE! GROSS! SO GROSS!!

PHBBT-BBT-BTT—!

GROSS!

YOU MADE THE SAME FACE BACK THEN!!

!?

GROSS!

CHATTER

GROSS!

WHAT THE ...?

SWING

GROSS!

THAT'S BE-CAUSE YOU SAID—

GROSS!!

GROSS!! GROSS! GROSS!

SWING

SWING

BAM

HEY, HEY! I BET WHAT YOU'RE REALLY UPSET ABOUT IS HOW YOU COMPLETELY CRUMBLED AFTER I PUT FIVE MINUTES AND SEVEN SECONDS BETWEEN US, WUSSYZUMI-KUN.

YOU DIDN'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO CHASE AFTER ME, YOU COULDN'T RIDE AT THE 90RPM I WAS GOING. THE REAL REASON I BEAT YOU, THE REAL REASON YOU LOST, IS JUST 'COS YOUR LEGS WERE TOO WEAK. ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

AND NOW YOU'RE JUST...

TRYING TO SAY IT WAS MY FAULT YOU LOST... THAT'S CALLED "PASSING THE BLAME."

DIDN'T THEY TEACH YOU ANY MORALS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?

...THE GROSS-EST —!!

WHOOMP

PUNCH

TCH!

LEAP

WHEW!

HOW SCARY! HOW SCARY!

PHBT BBT!

I MEAN... I MEAN, SERI-OUSLY. .

DURING THAT RACE. .

OOPSIE!

WHO HEARS THAT THEIR MOTHER'S DIED IN THE MIDDLE OF A RACE AND ACTUALLY BELIEVES IT?

...WHO WOULD ACTUALLY BELIEVE SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

OR DO YOU JUST HAVE AN OEDIPUS COMPLEX?

IZUKU

THEY SAID YOUR MOM GOT RUN OVER BY A MINIBIKE.

472

HONEST! THE STAFF WERE LOOKING FOR YOU.

NUMBER 472.

SHE WAS CALLING OUT FOR YOU, APPARENTLY.

PHBBT!

...WAS WAY TOO WEAK, WUSSY-ZUMI-KUN!

BUT YOU UNDER-STAND NOW, RIGHT?

YOUR RE-SOLVE ...

AND THEN, LITTLE BY LITTLE, YOU JUST STARTED LOSING SPEED.

YOUR FACE WHEN YOU HEARD THAT WAS A RIOT!

I...

...WOULD NEVER STOP PEDALING OVER SOMETHING LIKE MY MOTHER DYING, Y'KNOW !!?

MIDOUSUJI!!

NAIVE-ZUMI-KUN!

HEY, JACK-ASS!! SHUT YOUR ROTTEN MOUTH !!

IMAI-ZUMI ...

... AIN'T THAT WEAK !!

SOHOKU

STEP

CLAMP

GRASP

IF YOU'RE A CYCLIST —

IF YOU'RE A CYCLIST...

...FIGHT YOUR BATTLES ON THE ROAD!!

LET'S GO, YA GOOFS.

ROGER THAT.

THUMP

AH..'S RIGHT YEAH

ON THE ROAD...

RIGHT, RIGHT.

VIVAAH
VIVAAH
STOMP
京都
京都
京都
京都

CHATTER

TH-THAT WAS KYOTO-FUSHIMI!!

EEP!

SOMETHING FEELS OFF ABOUT THEM.

都

THEY'RE LIKE ..AN ARMY.

CHATTER

...LIKE, A FRIENDLIER BUNCH BACK THEN?

CHATTER

H...HUH? BUT KYOTO-FUSHIMI COMPETED LAST YEAR TOO, RIGHT?

WEREN'T THEY..

HEY... WAIT A SEC.

HE'S A THIRD-YEAR NOW...

WAIT...

THAT MIDOUSUJI GUY...

I REMEMBER NUMBER 92, ISHIGAKI.

I RODE WITH HIM DURING LAST YEAR'S RACE.

92

94

WHAT DID HE CALL HIS TEAM-MATES? "GOOFS?" "GOPHERS?"

GOOD ON HAKONE FOR NOT FALLING FOR HIS BAITING.

BUT MIDOUSUJI IS A FIRST-YEAR!

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I RECOGNIZE THOSE OTHER GUYS.. THEY'RE SECOND-YEARS!!

AND THE ONE IN FRONT IS YOKOYAMA, A THIRD-YEAR...

RIGHT!?

EVEN WITH ALL THOSE UPPERCLASSMEN ON THE TEAM...

...THEIR ACE IS A FIRST-YEAR!?

BRUSH

HMPH-HEH-HEH. ROAD RACING REALLY IS THE BEST SPORT THERE IS...

HMPH-HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH. "ON THE ROAD," HM?

...YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH ANYTHING !!

ON THE ROAD ...

POKE

RUB

RUB

RUB

BACK THERE ..

...I THINK YOU WENT TOO FAR WITH THAT LITTLE PERFORMANCE OF YOURS.

AH!

HEY, MIDOU-SUJI...

ANY-THING !!

PRESS

...YOU KNOW, SHOW SOME RESTRAINT!

ROAD RACING IS A GENTLE-MAN'S SPORT. YOU NEED TO...

BUT —

CRUSH

I GUESS I DID OVERDO IT A TAD

HMMM ...

WHOA... THE FIRST-YEAR ACE IS PICKING ON A THIRD-YEAR...!!

CHATTER

THEY'RE FIGHT-ING!

SQUEEZE

TELL ME— WHY DID YOU ADDRESS ME WITHOUT AN HONORIFIC JUST NOW? HUH? WHY?

I'M THE ACE.

I TOLD YOU TO ALWAYS ADDRESS ME WITH "KUN" AT THE END.

IF WE WERE AN ARMY, I'D BE YOUR CAPTAIN.

YOU'RE TO MOVE AS IF YOU WERE MY ARMS AND LEGS.

YOU OBEY ME. YOU SERVE ME.

IF YOU CAN SIMPLY DO THAT...

YOUR SOLE CONCERN IS TO FOLLOW MY ORDERS.

...I...

...WILL BRING YOU TOTAL VICTORY!!

京都水泉高等学校

.....

...WE UNDER-STAND...

...MIDOUSUJI... KUN.

HE HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL...

...THAT MIDOU-SUJI.

HUH?

I'M GLAD...

A-ARE YOU OKAY!?

U-UM... IMAIZUMI-KUN, UM—

THIS TIME, I'M GOING TO RACE HIM FAIR AND SQUARE.

AND THEN ...

THERE WAS ONE THING I FORGOT TO TELL HIM...

GOOD!!

THAT'S THE MIDOU-SUJI I KNOW!!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE IF HE'D REGRETTED WHAT HE DID, OR IF HIS PERSONALITY HAD CHANGED.

...WILL CRUSH HIM!!

WHAM

...I...

I DETEST WEAKLINGS WHO TRY TO TALK BIG.....

RIDE.74 STARTING RHYTHM

TWO BOTTLES FOR KINJOU-SAN...ONE FOR A SPORTS DRINK, ONE FOR WATER .....

FOR TADOKORO-SENPAI...HERE WE GO.

FIVE ENERGY BARS AND FIVE GELS.

A SPECIAL DRINK MIX FOR MAKISHIMA-SENPAI AND ONE... TWO...THREE ENERGY GELS.

STEP

ALL RIGHT!

LET'S GET GOING. THEY'LL BE STARTING SOON.

HUP!

HEAVE

BRIGHT

千葉県立 総北高

VAN: CHIBA PREFECTURAL SOHOKU HIGH

WHEW... IT SURE IS HOT.

WISHES...

NERVES...

PRAYERS...

FIGHTING SPIRIT...

STEP

STEP

CLATTER

CLATTER

...THE BAREST TOUCH COULD SHATTER IT.

THIS ATMOSPHERE BEFORE THE RACE'S START...IT FEELS SO TENSE...

EVERY ONE OF THEM IS HERE TO PUSH THEMSELVES TO THEIR LIMITS.

IT'S A UNIQUE MIX OF SCENTS.

THE SWEAT.

THE TIRE RUBBER.

THE OIL.

THE RHYTHM'S STARTING TO BUILD—

BUZZ!

ONE'S FEELINGS TOWARD ONESELF...

BUZZ!

ONE'S FEELINGS TOWARD THE FINISH LINE...

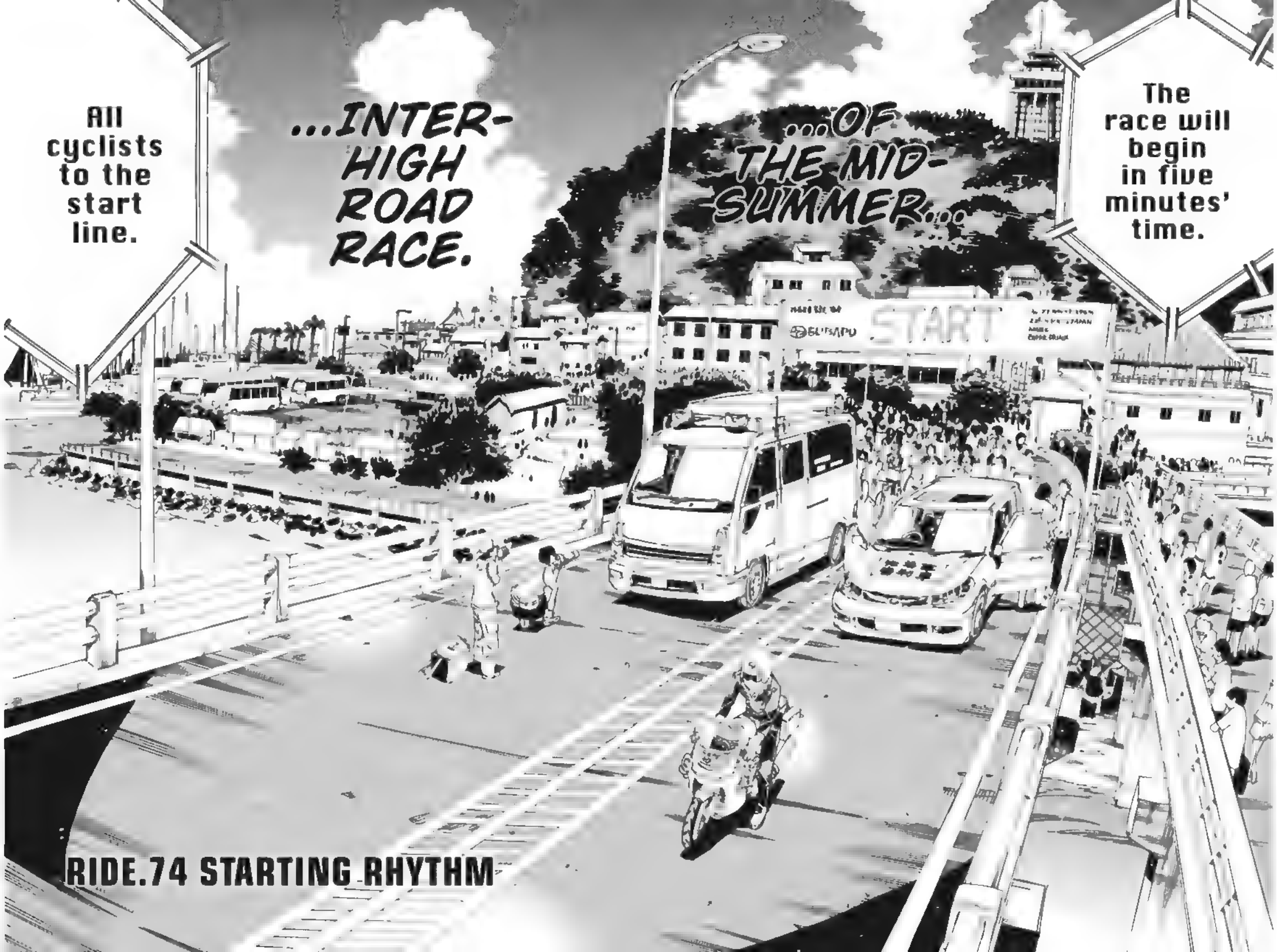
ONE'S FEELINGS TOWARD OTHERS...

ONE'S SENSE OF STILL-NESS...

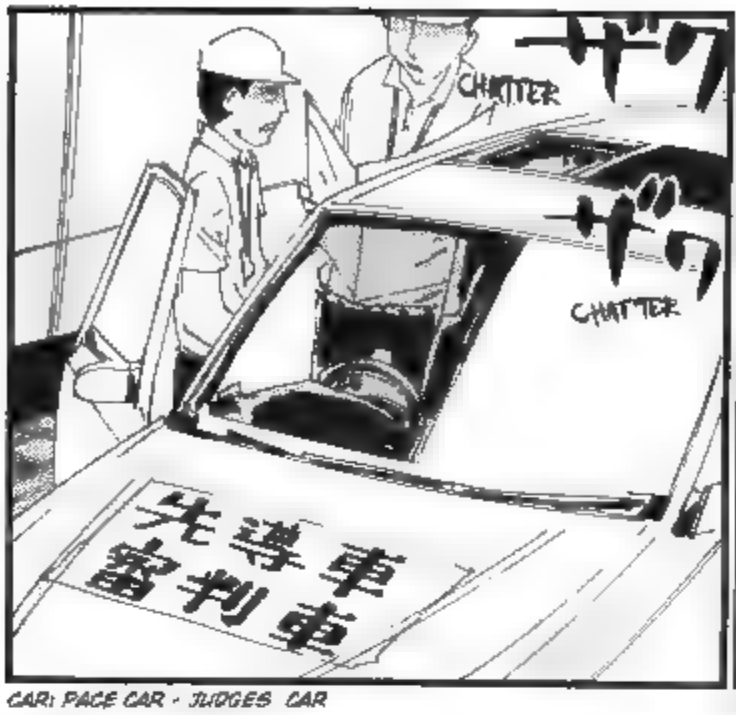
ONE'S SENSE OF INTENSITY...

...EACH OF THEM WILL FACE THE START LINE...

HOLDING ALL THESE DIFFERENT EMOTIONS INSIDE...

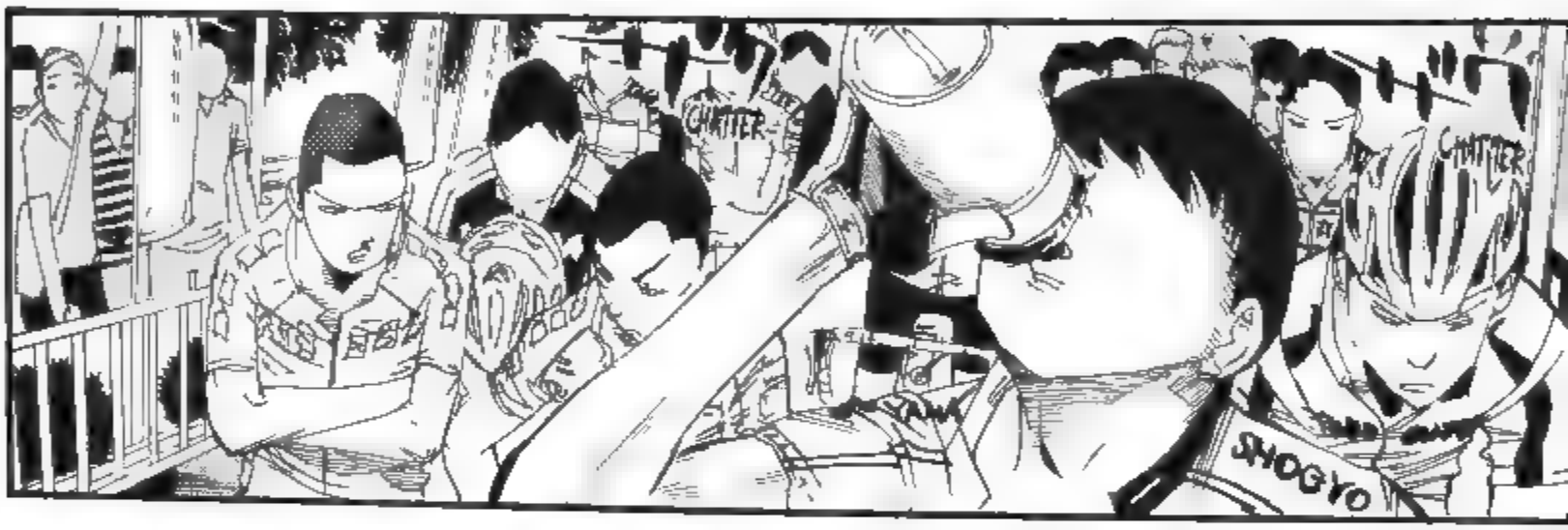


RIDE.74 STARTING RHYTHM



CAR: PACE CAR - JUDGES CAR

SIGN: ENERGY DRINK SPORTS



CHATTER

CHATTER

WE CAN WATCH FROM OVER HERE!

WHAT NUMBER IS THE SCHOOL REPPING YAMAGUCHI?

HOW GRAND!

SCHWAK

SLOSH

京都京都京都

WE'VE BROUGHT YOUR DRINKS AND SUPPLIES.

!

THANKS.

SOHOKU

IS THIS ONE MINE?

YES

SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE. OH! IT'S COLD!

I'LL TAKE YOUR EMPTY BOTTLES.

GOOD LUCK, EVERYONE!!

WEEE

OF COURSE!

YOU HAVE THE FIRST-YEARS' SUPPLIES TOO?

SOHOKU

BADUMP
HUFF!
HUFF!
SOHOK
SOHOK
BADUMP
BADUMP
BADUMP

SORRY, NARUKO-KUN—

WAAAH!!

SOR—!?

OUCH

ACK!

YOU GOT ME GOOD.

CRASH

NNWAUGH!

VIM

FLING

AT TIMES LIKE THIS, IT'S IMPORTANT TO TAKE DEEEEEP BREATHS!

BAM

EVEN PEOPLE FROM OTHER TEAMS ARE WORRIED ABOUT HIM..

KEH HEH!

YE—I'M SORRY!

AAAH!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT THERE?

CAN YOU STAND?

SOHOKU

KINZAKI

YEAH, GOOD LUCK.

AH! SORRY.

YOU ARE? PHBBT!

SCRAWNY

THANK YOU!!

S-SO I'M FINE!!

I'M AIMING FOR THE TOP!!

NARUKO

YES!!

HAAAHH...

SOHOKU

KANZAKI

SOHOKU

HAAH...

HAAH...

HAAH...

FWOO...

FALLING DOWN MIGHT'VE HELPED HIM CALM HIS NERVES.

!?

HUH?

LIGHTENING YOUR WEIGHT EVEN A LITTLE WILL HELP.

YOU'VE GOT TWO WATER BOTTLES, SO TRY TO HAVE ONE HALF EMPTY BY THE TIME YOU ENTER THE MOUNTAINS.

YEAH.

I'D BETTER GIVE YOU YOUR SUPPLIES TOO, ONODA-KUN.

HERE ARE YOUR WATER BOTTLES AND ENERGY SNACKS.

.....

YEAH.

YEAH.

ARE YOU OKAY!?

.....

I CAN HEAR WHAT EVERYONE'S SAYING AGAIN.

MY HEART'S STILL POUNDING, BUT MORE THAN ANYTHING, I FEEL EXCITED

THANKS TO THAT FALL, I...FEEL CALMER.

BECAUSE I GET TO RIDE WITH EVERY-ONE!!

SOHOKU

172

173

CLANG

All non riders, please exit the race course.

The race will begin in two minutes.

CHATTER

CHATTER

O.OH!-

YEAH.

IT'S FINALLY TIME.

BUMP
ゴス
ゴス
BUMP
ゴス
BUMP
ゴス
BUMP
LET'S DO THIS!!
WE'LL MAKE IT HAPPEN!!
WATCH OUT, HAKONE ACADEMY!
CLENCH
RAISE
SHUKU

YEAH!!

YES, SIR!!

The race will begin in one minute.

THEY REALLY ARE A GOOD TEAM.

WOW...

YOUR VERY FIRST OFFICIAL RACE IS THE ONE EVERYONE LONGS TO ENTER— THE INTER-HIGH!

ONODA-KUN, I REALLY ENVY YOU RIGHT NOW.

AND YOU GET TO RIDE IT WITH THIS ULTIMATE LINEUP.

CLATCH

...AND THE THIRD-YEARS.

I TRULY BELIEVE THIS TEAM WOULDN'T HAVE WORKED IF EVEN A SINGLE ONE OF YOU HADN'T BEEN HERE.

ONODA-KUN...

...IMAIZUMI-KUN...

...NARUKO-KUN...

CLANK

WHIRR

CLANK

MAKE SURE...
...YOU ENJOY THIS RACE AS MUCH AS YOU CAN!!
...WITH A "GOOD LUCK"!
THERE'S NOTHING BETTER THAN THAT. SO, ONODA-KUN, I'M NOT GOING TO SEND YOU OFF...
ONODA-KUN!
MAKE SURE
HUH?
YOU ONLY GET ONE FIRST RACE IN YOUR WHOLE LIFE.

I WILL !!

Start!!

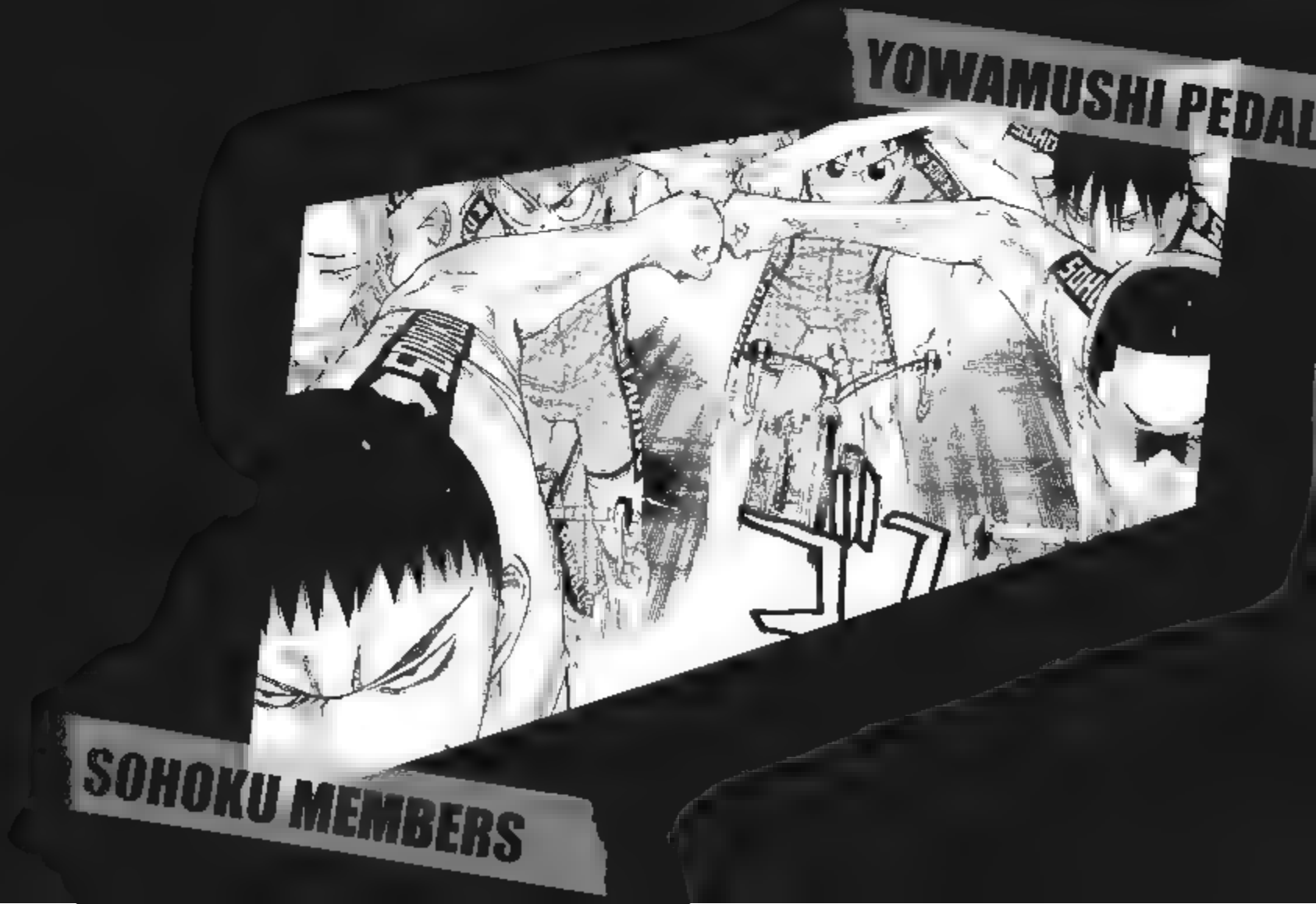
BANG

WAAAAAAH!

LET'S GO NUTS OUT THERE, ONODA-KUN!!

YEAH !!

RIDE.75 THE START LINE


YOWAMUSHI PEDAL
SOHOKU MEMBERS

MOM...!!
HUH?
...RACE, SO I WON'T BE HOME!!
...I'M GOING ...
TOMOR-ROW...
BABUMP
BABUMP
BABUMP
BEST BOY
...ON A TH-THREE-DAY...

SHOCK

DO ANIME CLUBS HOLD RACES THESE DAYS?

ER...I DID SEE ON TV RECENTLY THAT BICYCLING IS REALLY GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH.

I SIGNED A PERMISSION SLIP FOR A TRAINING CAMP, RIGHT?

AH.. AHH! THAT'S RIGHT, YOU WENT ON ANOTHER TRIP RECENTLY FOR THREE...OR FOUR DAYS?

FOR CYCLING! I EXPLAINED IT BEFORE!

I'M...I'M IN THE CYCLING CLUB NOW.

HUH!? ROAD RACER? S THAT SOME ANIME THING?

I TOLD YOU— IT'S A BICYCLE RACING CLUB. SO, UM...WE RACE ON OUR ROAD RACER BIKES, BASICALLY.

NO!

BUT DO THEY REALLY HOLD RACES...

IT SEEMS LIKE A FUN ACTIVITY.

...FOR BICY-CLING?

UM... HAKONE.

ON THE FIRST DAY

WHERE IS THIS RACE?

DUMMMM

LET'S TAKE A BREAK OVER THERE.

LOOK! WE CAN SEE IT UP AHEAD!

箱根 10 KM

THAT SOUNDS LIKE FUN...

SIGNS: SHAVED ICE; DUMPLINGS; ANMITSU; HAKONE 10KM

AH, THAT REMINDS ME.

THOSE PHOTOS YOU SHOWED ME ON YOUR PHONE.

UM, BUT..

LA LA LA...

BRING ME BACK A SOUVENIR.

NOD

YEAH!!

THE RED-HAIRED BOY AND THE NARROW-EYED BOY..ARE THEY GOING WITH YOU?

YOUR FRIENDS.

YEAH !!
CHEEEER
WELL, THAT'S REASSURING.
SOHOKU
総北高校自転車競技部

NARUKO-KUN...

IMAIZUMI-KUN...

MAKISHIMA-SAN...

IT'S LIKE A DREAM.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M STANDING HERE BESIDE YOU.

THANK YOU.

CAPTAIN...

TADOKORO-SAN!..

I BET THIS FEELING WON'T CHANGE, EVEN AFTER WE START RIDING.

JUST THINKING I CAN RIDE WITH THESE AMAZING FOLKS IS SO THRILLING I CAN HARDLY STAND IT.

SOHOKU

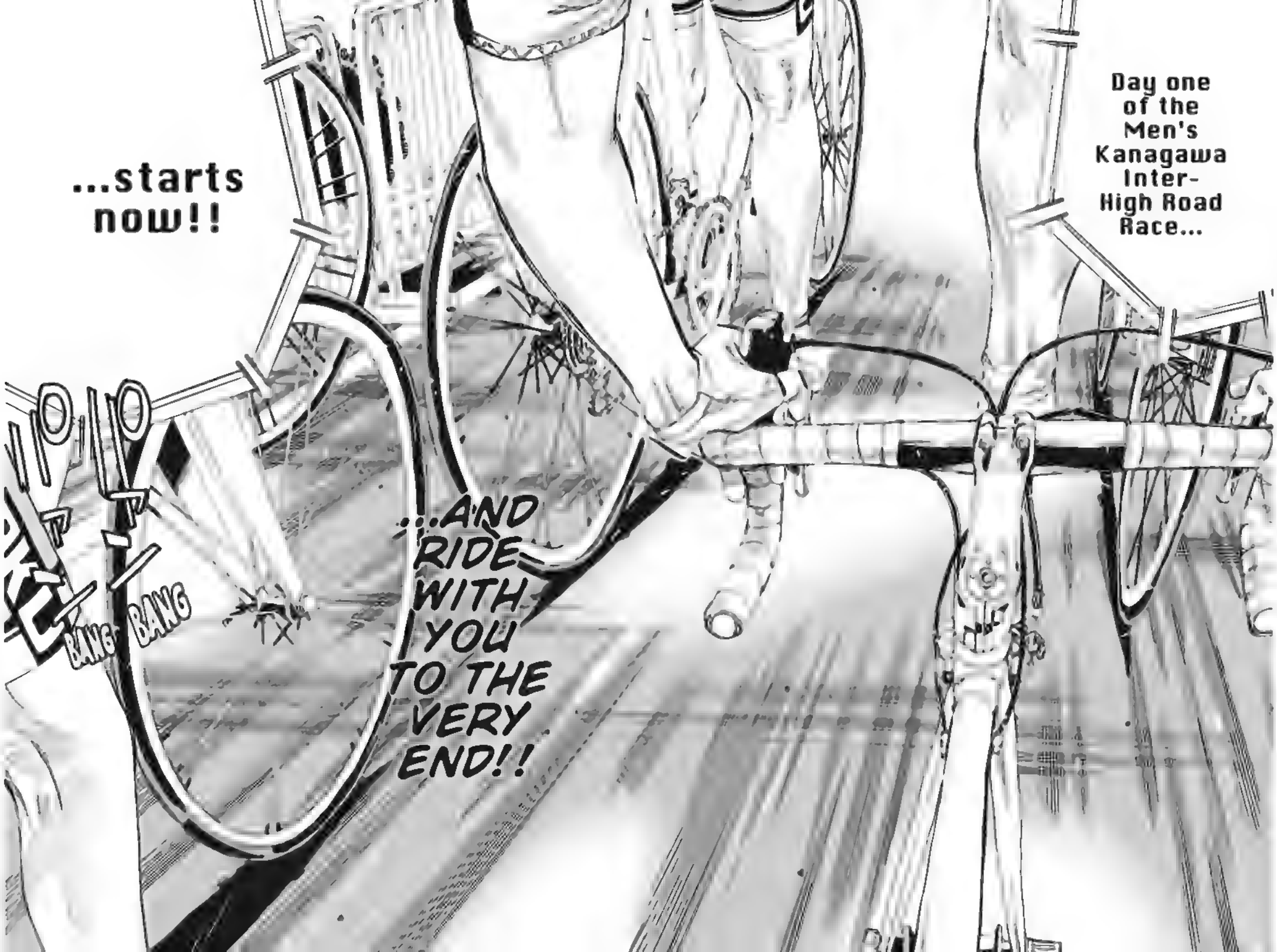
THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME THIS CHANCE!!

SQUEEZE

THEN YOU'LL NEED TO HOLD THAT PERSON UP.

THAT'S WHY...

...I'LL PEDAL AS HARD AS I CAN...


Day one of the Men's Kanagawa Inter-High Road Race...
...starts now!!
...AND RIDE WITH YOU TO THE VERY END!!
BANG
BANG

WAAAAAH!

BANNER: DRY YOUR SWEAT. KIRA SPORTS DRI.

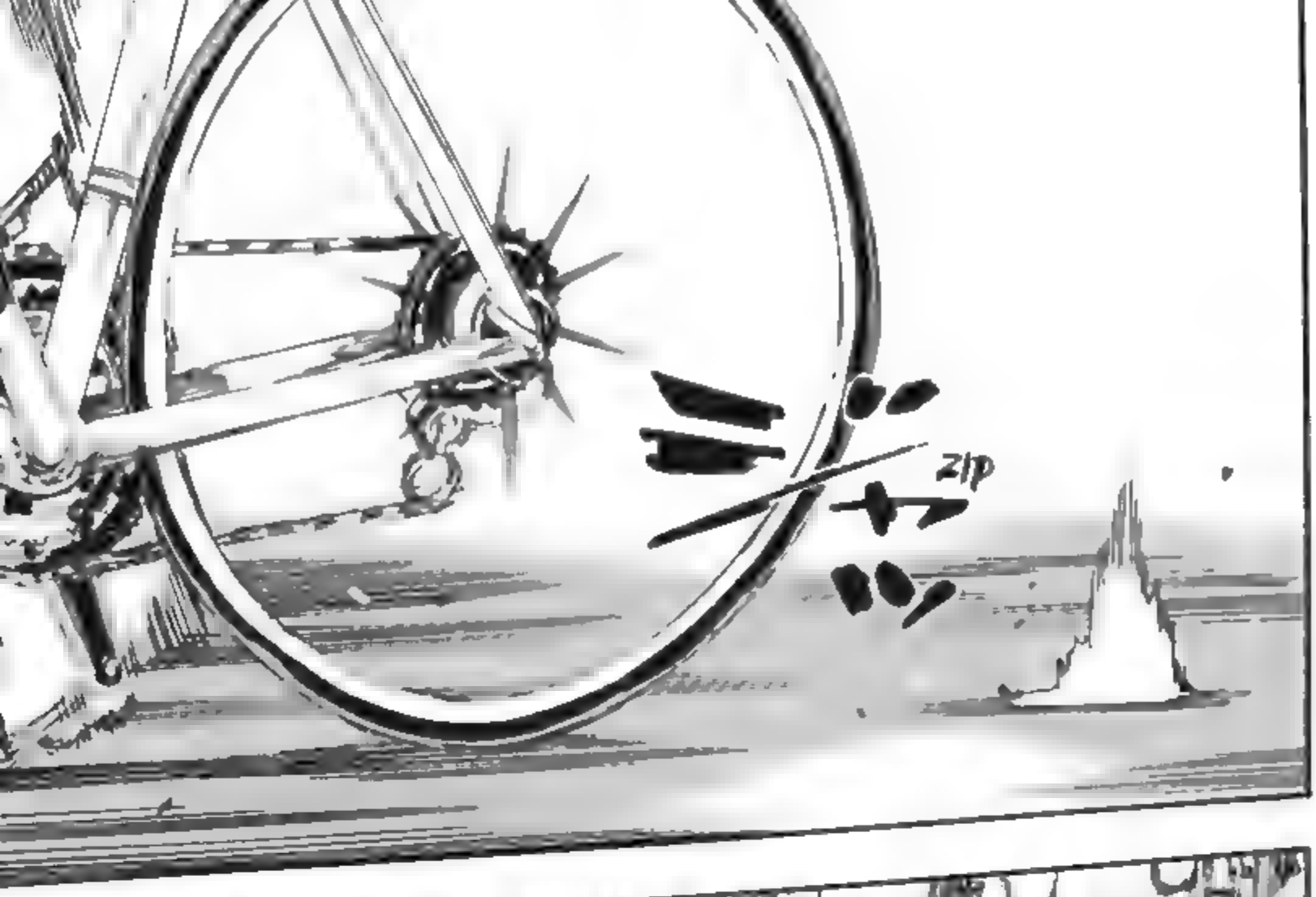
先導車
審判車

VROOM

AAH!

RUMBLE

INCH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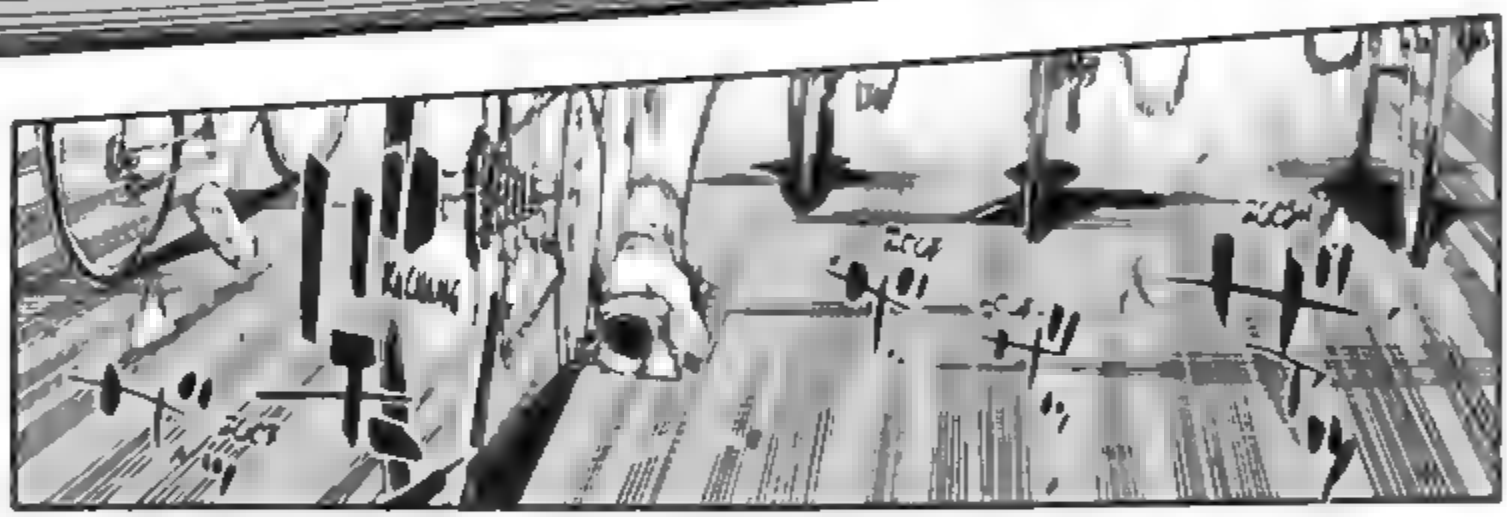

KALIMING
ZOOM
ZOOM

ZOOOOOSH

CHATTER

THE FRONT OF THE PACK IS MOVING.

KEH-KEH-KEH! HERE IT COMES! HERE IT COMES!!

EVERYONE'S BREATHING HAS PICKED UP, AND THE CRACKLING TENSION IN THE AIR... I CAN SENSE EVERYONE'S NERVES...!!

ZOCH

THIS INCREDIBLE ATMOSPHERE...

WE ALREADY WARMED UP THIS MORNING...

...BUT MY BODY'S NOT MOVING THE WAY IT USUALLY DOES...!

AH...

URK!

CLICK

COME ON...

HUH?

CLICK CLICK SPIN SPIN

IT'S ALMOST LIKE...

SHIVER

...I CAN FEEL IT ON MY BARE SKIN!!

JUST RIDE ALONG WITH THE FLOW OF THE PACK, ONODA-KUN!!

UH... RIGHT!!

ZOOSH

ZIP

KACHANKA

KANZAKI

OHOKU

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

KANZAKI

OHOKU

ZOOOOOSH

THE WHOLE PACK IS MOVING TOGETHER, AS THOUGH IT WERE ONE HUGE ANIMAL!!

WHAT!?

...OR PULLED!?

...AM I BEING PUSHED...?

CRACKLE

CRACKLE

ONODA

THIS IS THE REAL THING... AN OFFICIAL RACE!!

ZOOOOOSH

START

PA-RADE ...?

PA...

THE FIRST TWO KILO-METERS ARE JUST A PARADE RUN.

HUH !?

DON'T GET YOURSELF WORKED UP, ONODA.

※THE TOUR DE FRANCE AND GIRO D'ITALIA ARE THE TWO MOST PRESTIGIOUS ROAD RACES IN THE WORLD.

PLUS, IF WE ALL TRIED TO JUMP STRAIGHT INTO THE RACE RIGHT OUT OF THE GATES, PEOPLE'D GET HURT

KEH-KEH-KEH!

IT'S A SECTION AT THE START OF THE COURSE THAT WE RIDE IN EXHIBITION FOR THE SPECTATORS. IT HAS NO IMPACT ON THE ACTUAL RACE, SO IT'S REALLY JUST A PARADE.

YOU WATCHED THE TOUR AND GIRO DVDS I LENT YOU, RIGHT? THEY DO THESE PARADE RUNS TOO.

...IT GETS PRETTY NUTS. THE DAY ONE COURSE IS ALWAYS TOUGH.

UP AHEAD 2KM, AROUND THE SHOUNAN PARK OVERPASS...

...WHEN WE START FOR REAL, IT BECOMES A FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL.

THAT SAID...

SOHOKU

LAKE ASHI

HAKONE

CHIGASAKI

START

DAY ONE FINISH LINE

ODAWARA

ENOSHIMA

ZUSHI

ESPECIALLY FOR CLIMBERS!!

THE ENTIRE SECTION WHERE WE RIDE ALONG THE COAST IS BASICALLY FLATS.

AND FLATS ARE THE REALM OF THE SPRINTER.

SO FOR CLIMBERS, YOU'VE GOTTA HOLD BACK FOR THE WHOLE STARTING SECTION OF THE RACE.

EVEN THOUGH IT'S A LONG, THREE-DAY BATTLE...

...AND SURVIVE TO THE END...

...WE'VE JUST GOTTA PUSH OURSELVES...

I THINK...

BUT...

...DON'T BE AFRAID TO GO ALL OUT EITHER, ONODA-KUN.

.....!!

HOLD BACK...!

GOAL
...IT'D BE PRETTY AWESOME IF ALL THREE OF US...
...FOR ALL THREE DAYS...
...COULD RIDE SIDE-BY-SIDE AT THE FRONT OF THE PACK.
SOHOKU
HOW UNUSUAL. YOU'RE INCLUDING ME?
AAH, JUST 'COS YOU HAPPEN TO BE HERE. THAT'S ALL! WOULDN'T WANT YA TO CRY 'COS I LEFT YOU OUT.
IF I'VE GOTTA SEE YOU CRY, I'D RATHER IT BE AFTER WE CROSS THE FINISH LINE TOGETHER.
THAT SAID...
SO THIS DREAM... THIS IDEAL OF YOURS... IS JUST A FANTASY.
HMPH. NAIVE AS ALWAYS I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE.. IN RACES, THERE'S ALWAYS ...ONLY ONE WINNER.

...A FANTASY LIKE THAT...

...WOULDN'T BE BAD IN MY BOOK!

I CAN FEEL STRENGTH WELLING UP INSIDE OF ME!!

LET'S GO!! LET'S SURVIVE TO THE END!! AND THEN...

WOW!

WOW!

WOW!

YEAH!!

ALL THREE OF US!!

...TO THE FINISH LINE!

WHAT!?

HUH!?

CHATTER

HM?

YEAH!

WHOA, THAT JERSEY IS—

BEFORE ALL THAT, MAKE SURE YOU DON'T FALL BEHIND US ON THE FLATS, ONODA...

CAPTAIN SUN-GLASSES'LL PROBABLY BE MAD IF HE KNEW WE WERE TRYIN' TO SNATCH AWAY THE TOP SPOTS.

HA HA!

AH! BUT KEEP IT A SECRET FROM THE THIRD-YEARS, 'KAY?

WHOA, HAKONE ACADEMY!!

...SAKA-MICHI-KUN!

WHY'S HE BACK HERE?

HAKONE ACADEMY!

HEY THERE...

NUM-BER SIX!

HUH!? WAH!!

KANAGAWA

6

MANAMI-KUN!!

MAKE SURE YOU GET TO THE MOUNTAINS !

THE RACE IS ON!!

KAWAGAKU

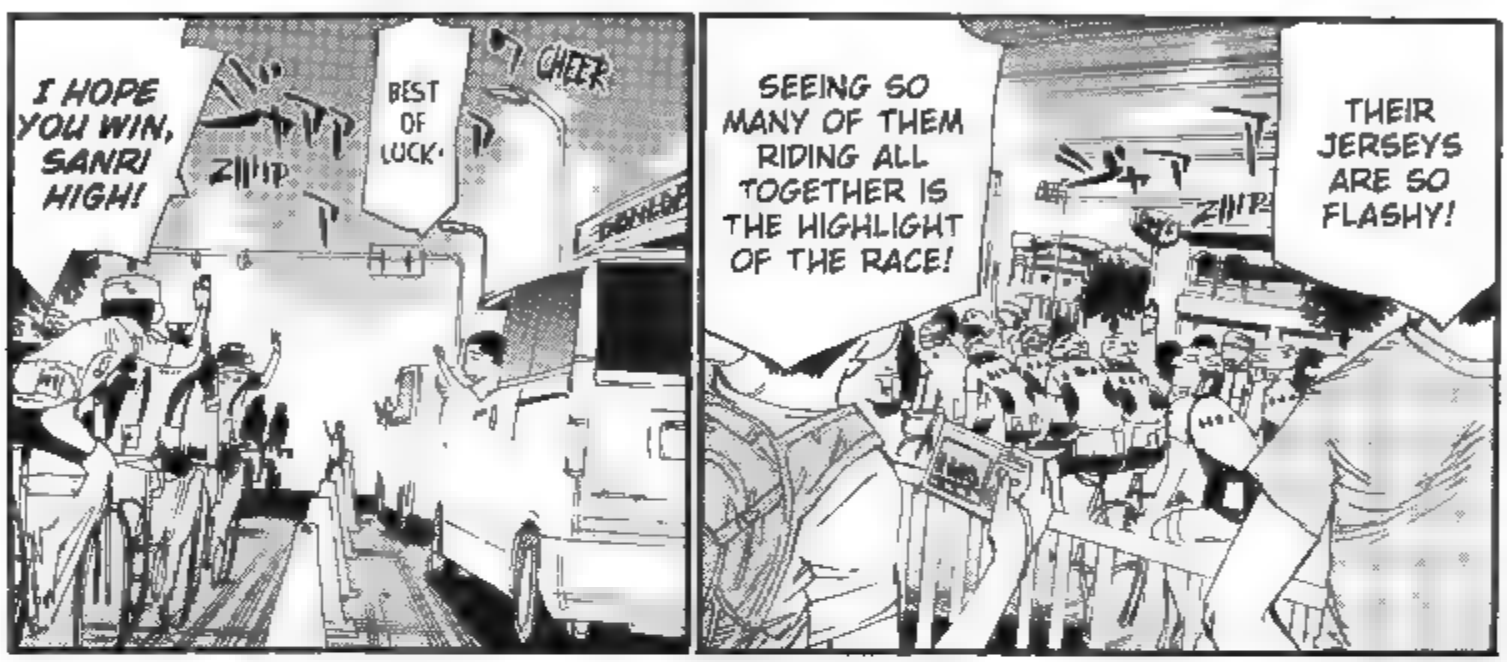
KAWAGAKU

...!! OKAY !!

THEN ...

...WE CAN HAVE A REAL REMATCH!!

RIDE.76 TOP SPRINTER!!


I HOPE YOU WIN, SANRI HIGH!
ZIIIP
BEST OF LUCK!
CHEER
SEEING SO MANY OF THEM RIDING ALL TOGETHER IS THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE RACE!
ZIIIP
THEIR JERSEYS ARE SO FLASHY!

THE ONLY CHOICE IS TO FIGHT!!

THRUST

THERE'S NO BACKING OUT OF IT NOW.

SQUEEZE

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
BAM

ZOOOSH

THEY'RE ALREADY SPEEDING UP!!

WHOA! LOOK! HERE THEY COME!!

THAT'S WHERE IT REALLY STARTS!

WHOOOAA!

NOT YET! THEY'LL SPEED UP AFTER THEY REACH THIS OVERPASS.

BABUMP

BABUMP

BABUMP

...RAISES THEIR FLAG.

ONCE THE JUDGES' CAR LEADING THE PELOTON...

FROM HERE...

THAT'S THE SIGNAL TO START!

ZIIIP

FLAP

先導車
審判車

RIDE.76 TOP SPRINTER!!
THOOM
...THEY'LL REACH SPEEDS YOU WON'T BELIEVE!!
SHUMSEI
ZIIIIP

ZOOOOSH

ZOOO OSH

DO THEY HAVE ENGINES ATTACHED !?

WHAT THE HECK !?

WHOA! THEY'RE SO FAST!!

SHUNSE

ZOOSH

SOHOKU

SOHOKU

SHOUNSEN

ZIIP

...SOUND AND WIND DRAFT!!

ZOOOOSH

I'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED THIS KIND OF...

OUR SPEED'S UP.

WE'RE GOING SO FAST...!!

SOHOKU

SOHOKU

THOOM

THIS MUST BE THE TRAINING WE DID AT CAMP PAYING OFF!!

BUT...

CLENCH

...I'M ABLE TO KEEP UP SOME-HOW.

'SCUSE ME!

THOOM

SOHOKU

ZOOSH

TADOKORO-SENPAI...!!

HEY, HEY! DON'T YOU GO FLYING OUT THERE TILL I GIVE THE SIGNAL.

I'M SO EXCITED I COULD POOP MY PANTS RIGHT NOW!!

NARUKO-KUN...!!

ALL RIGHT!! IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR ME TO TAKE THE STAGE...

FLATS, FLATS, AND MORE FLATS!! IT'S LIKE THEY MADE THIS COURSE JUST FOR ME, DON'T YA THINK!?

STARTING THERE, IT'S 50KM OF FLAT ROAD!!

IT'S ABOUT TO BEGIN, ONODA ...

YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE WHO THE SPEED-STERS OF *EACH SCHOOL* ARE.

NOW...

JAB

NOPE... IT'S FOR ME!!

ZOOP

SANRI

SANKI

箱根山理学園

SANKI

FOOSH

KANAZAWA

MISAKI

SAKI

THE SPEED-STERS...

DAIHU

DAIHUKU

FOOM

AUSHIJIMA

VICTORY IS ALWAYS DETER-MINED...

IT ISN'T ABOUT WORDS ...

...BY THEIR STRENGTH !!

...OR LUCK.

THEIR MATCHES ARE FLASHY AND STRAIGHT-FORWARD, WITH NO FRILLS.

THERE'S NO FAKING REAL STRENGTH IN THEIR FIELD.

SPRINTERS ARE THE STARS OF THE SHOW.

.....! WHY...DO THEY DO THAT?

GULP

...TO COMPETE IN A SHOW OF LEG STRENGTH !!

UNCH

AT THE START OF THE RACE, EACH TEAM SENDS ITS SPRINTER...

NOW WATCH... TAKE A GOOD LOOK!! THE RIDERS WHO BREAK AWAY...

...IN THIS FIRST BATTLE ...

ZOOSH

...THE OTHER TEAMS FEEL GREATER PRESSURE GOING AGAINST YOU, GIVING YOU AN ADVANTAGE!! IT LETS YOU SET THE TONE OF THE RACE!!

FACED WITH REALITY ...

THE TONE OF THE RACE...!!

...IS A POWERFUL DISPLAY OF THEIR STRENGTH !!

BECAUSE BEATING YOUR OPPONENTS INTO SUBMISSION IN FRONT OF EVERY-ONE...

RUSH
MULTIPLE RIDERS HAVE BROKEN AWAY FROM THE PELOTON!!
IT'S STARTING!
BOTH KANAZAWA-MISAKI AND SANRI ACADEMY... ARE IN THE GROUP.
WHOA! SO FAST!!
DON'T CALL ME "OLD MAN."
CAN'T WE GO YET, OLD MAN!?
SOHOKU
FWOOM
FWOOM
...ARE THE ONES WITH REAL STRENGTH— THE ONES CALLED TOP SPRINTERS!!

WHIP

GLANCE

THIS KINDA THING'S MORE EFFECTIVE IF WE GIVE 'EM A HEAD START!!

'COS THE IMPACT WE MAKE ON 'EM IS WHAT'S IMPORTANT HERE!!

NOT UNTIL THEY GLANCE BACK AND THINK NO ONE ELSE IS COMING FOR 'EM.

NOT YET.

ZOOOOM

STILL .....?

STILL NOT YET!?

HAAAARRRRRRRRRR

SHOUKICHI NARUKO...

...IS MAKIN' HIS BIG ENTRANCE!!

RGH!

FWOOM

LLO

JAB

TIME TO GO, RED!!

RAH!!

CRUSHH

HYAAA-AHHHH!!

T-TWO RIDERS!? SOHOKU HAS TWO TOP SPRINTERS !?
SOHOKU JUMPS IN LAST-MINUTE!!
200 KM/H
FWOOM
WAS HE ON SOHOKU'S TEAM LAST YEAR!?
WAIT, WHO'S THAT REDHEAD?
THEY'RE SO FAST...!!
THEY SHOT FORWARD LIKE THEY WERE ON MOTOR-CYCLES!!
HAAA-AAAR-RGHH!!
C'MON! C'MON! C'MON !!
SOHOKU
KANZAKI
RELL

ARE YOU STILL UP FOR THIS...

HOW DO YOU FEEL? NERVOUS RIDING IN YOUR FIRST INTER-HIGH?

ZOOOOOSH

箱根学園

HAAAHH...

JERSEY: HAKONE ACADEMY

WITH *RAPTURE*, THAT IS...

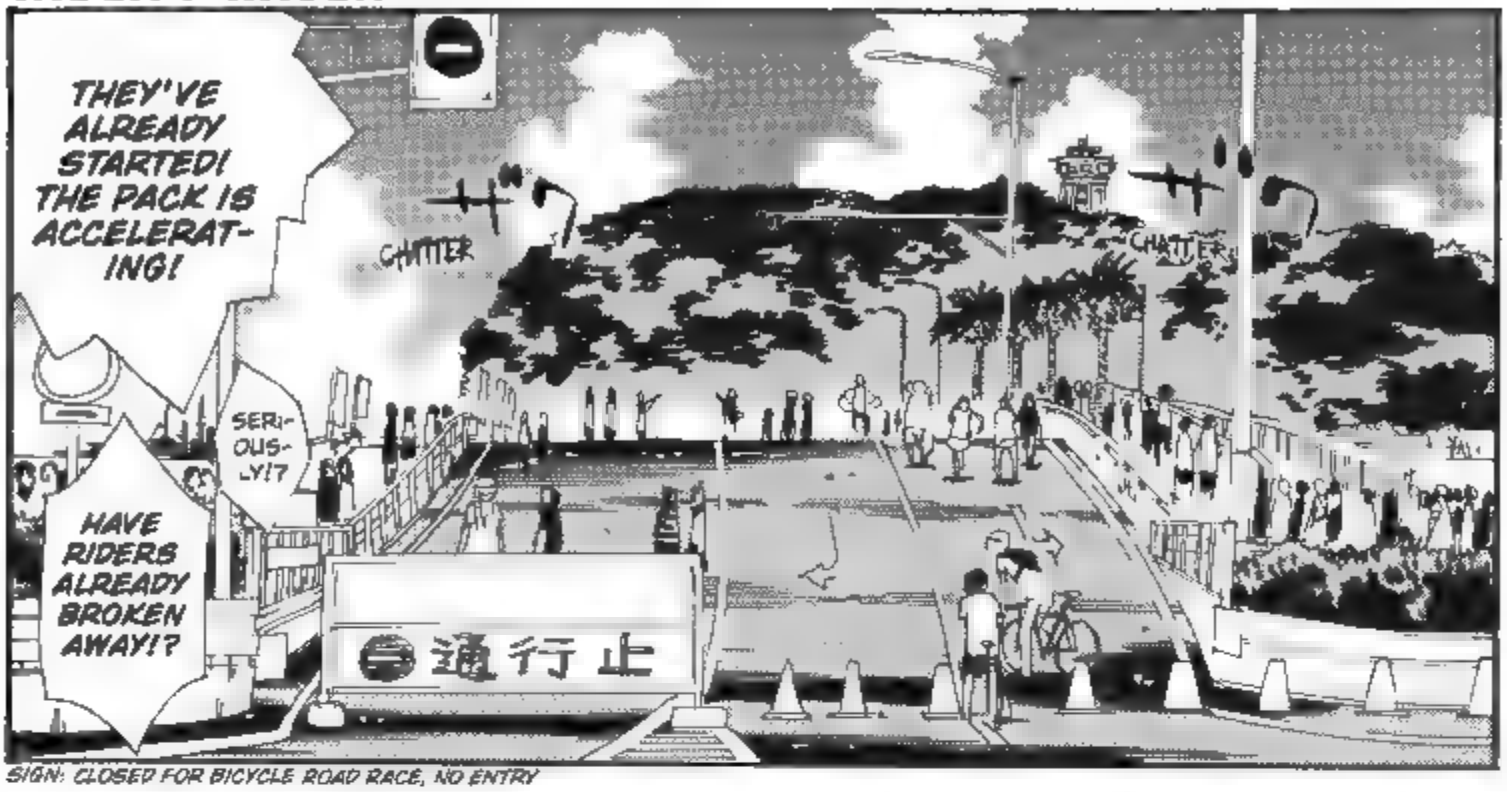
...IZUMI-DA?

MY HEART FEELS LIKE IT'S ABOUT TO BURST.

BECAUSE I AM THE ONE...WHO WILL CONTROL THIS RACE OF FLATS!!

I'M GIVING THEM A NICE, BIG HANDICAP.

RIDE.77 RACE!!



SIGN: CLOSED FOR BICYCLE ROAD RACE, NO ENTRY

BEING IN THE CAR AND ALL, WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING HOW THE RACE IS GOING.

HAA...

HAA...

OH BOY... RESUPPLY IS IMPORTANT, OF COURSE, BUT...

IT'S A BIT OF A SHAME THAT WE HAVE TO STAY AHEAD OF THE RACE, HUH?

DON'T WORRY.

HMM, WHAT A SHAME.

BUT IT'S NOT LIKE EUROPE, WHERE TV CAMERAS COVER THE RACES.

I'D LIKE TO KNOW MORE...LIKE WHO'S IN FIRST RIGHT NOW...AND WHAT PLACE SOHOKU'S IN.

KEEP LOADING

THERE ARE SENSORS LIKE THE ONES AT THE START LINE...

...SET UP ABOUT EVERY 15KM ALONG THE COURSE.

AND EACH CHECKPOINT RECORDS THE FINISHING ORDER OF THE RIDERS.

THE INTER-HIGH IS BROKEN UP INTO QUITE A FEW CHECK-POINTS.

SLAM!

SLIIIDE

Current Standings Checkpoint No.__

1st	High School	Cyclist	
2nd	High School	Cyclist	
3rd	High School	Cyclist	
4th	High School	Cyclist	
5th	High School	Cyclist	
6th	High School	Cyclist	
		Cyclist	

EVERY TIME THE RIDERS REACH ONE OF THESE CHECKPOINTS, THE CURRENT STANDINGS ARE UPDATED.

THE STANDINGS ARE COMMUNICATED TO THE RIDERS TOO.

THAT'S GREAT!! SO GREAT!!

WOW! SO IF WE CHECK THOSE STAND-INGS ..

...WE'LL KNOW WHO'S LEADING AND WHAT PACE THE RACE IS MOVING AT!!

...WHICH MAKES IT EASIER TO CONTROL THEM ALL.

THEIR OPPONENTS THINK "THAT SCHOOL'S A STRONG ONE"...

BECAUSE SCORING THE FIRST POINT OR BEING RANKED FIRST IN THE INITIAL SET OF RESULTS GIVES AN ATHLETE A PSYCHOLOGICAL ADVANTAGE.

WHICH MAKES THEM A POWERFUL STRATEGIC TOOL.

TOP ...!?

STRAT-EGY...!

THIS IS A STRA-TEGIC PLAY, EH!?

THAT'S WHY EVERY SCHOOL SENDS OUT ITS TOP SPRINTER AT THIS POINT.

BUT TO THE SPRINTERS, THIS CHECK-POINT...

...IS BOTH FOR THEIR TEAMS...

...AND FOR THEM-SELVES.

HUH?

WITH FINELY ATTUNED REFLEXES AND THE ABILITY TO READ THE SHIFTING RACE CONDITIONS, YOU AIM FOR THE TOP PRIZE.

TO SPRINTERS, WHO CHASE AFTER EVER GREATER SPEED...

...WHAT THEY WANT MORE THAN ANY-THING...

...IS TO RIDE FASTER THAN ANYONE ELSE AND NEVER YIELD VICTORY.

IT'S THE THRILL OF BEING MILLI-SECONDS BEHIND...

...AND IN THE BREADTH OF A MOMENT, WITH A BURST OF POWER...

...CLAIMING THE MOST FAVORABLE POSITION FOR YOURSELF.

IT'S "PRES-TIGE" ..... YOU KNOW ?

THEM... SELVES?

THE GLORY OF DEVOURING THE OPPONENT BEFORE THEM...

...AND PULLING AHEAD, BE IT BY A METER OR BY TEN CENTIMETERS.

WHOA!!
SO... SO FAST !!
WHOOOOOSH
84
84
73
THEY WANT THE PRESTIGE OF BEING THE FASTEST AND THE STRONGEST !!
ZOOOOOSH
RIDE.77 RACE!!

GAH HA HA HA HA!

KEH KEH KEH!

総北高校 自転車競技部

SOHOKU

SHUT IT! YOU SHOULD FALL BACK AND RIDE BEHIND ME, RED!

ZOOOSH

BANG

BANG

YOU'RE IN MY WAY, OLD MAN! YOU'RE TOO HUGE!!

YOU COULDN'T DO THAT IN A HUNDRED YEARS! NOT EVEN A MILLION !!

I'LL TAKE THE TOP SPOT FOR THE TEAM!!

BANG

BANG

FOR THE TEAM!

DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT A THING! I'LL CROSS THAT CHECKPOINT FIRST AND TAKE THE FIRST TOP RANK!!

WHOEVER TAKES THE FIRST CHECKPOINT OF THE INTER-HIGH WILL HAVE THEIR NAME RESOUND ACROSS JAPAN! THAT'LL BE...

...ME!!

...THIS GUY!

NO, NOT A CHANCE.

HUH!?

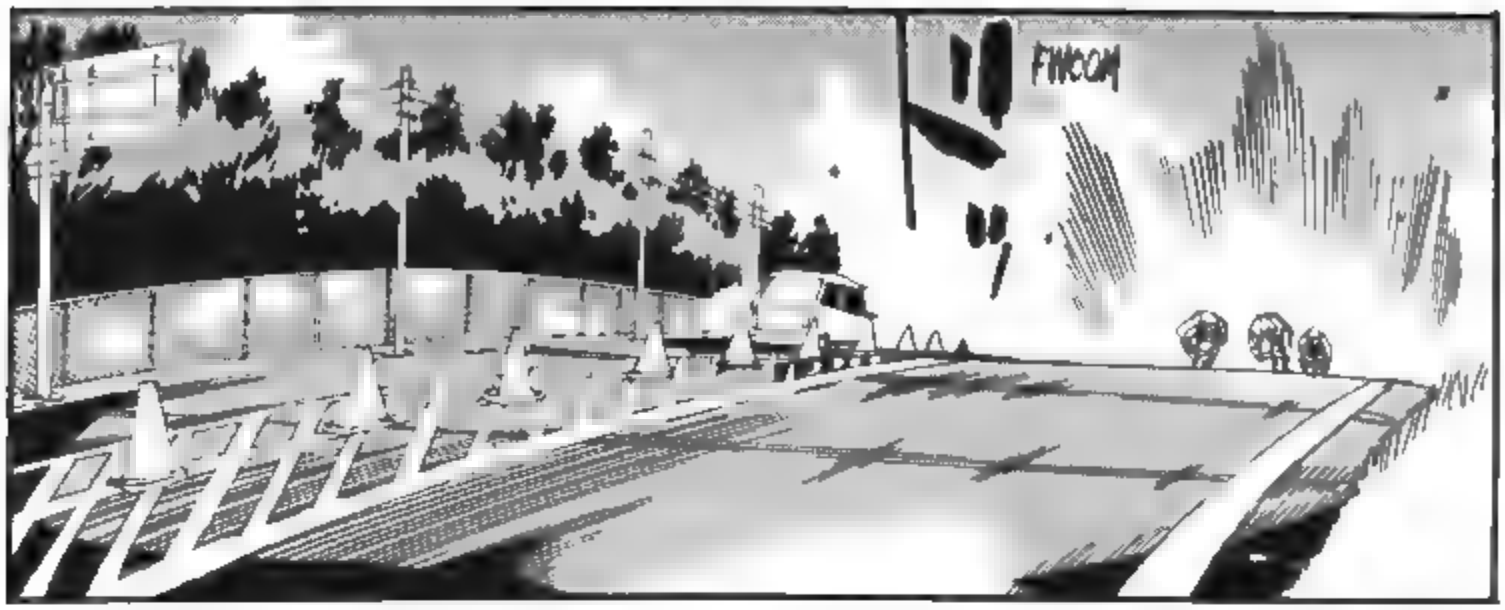
I-I WONDER IF THEY'LL GET ALONG RIDING WITH EACH OTHER...

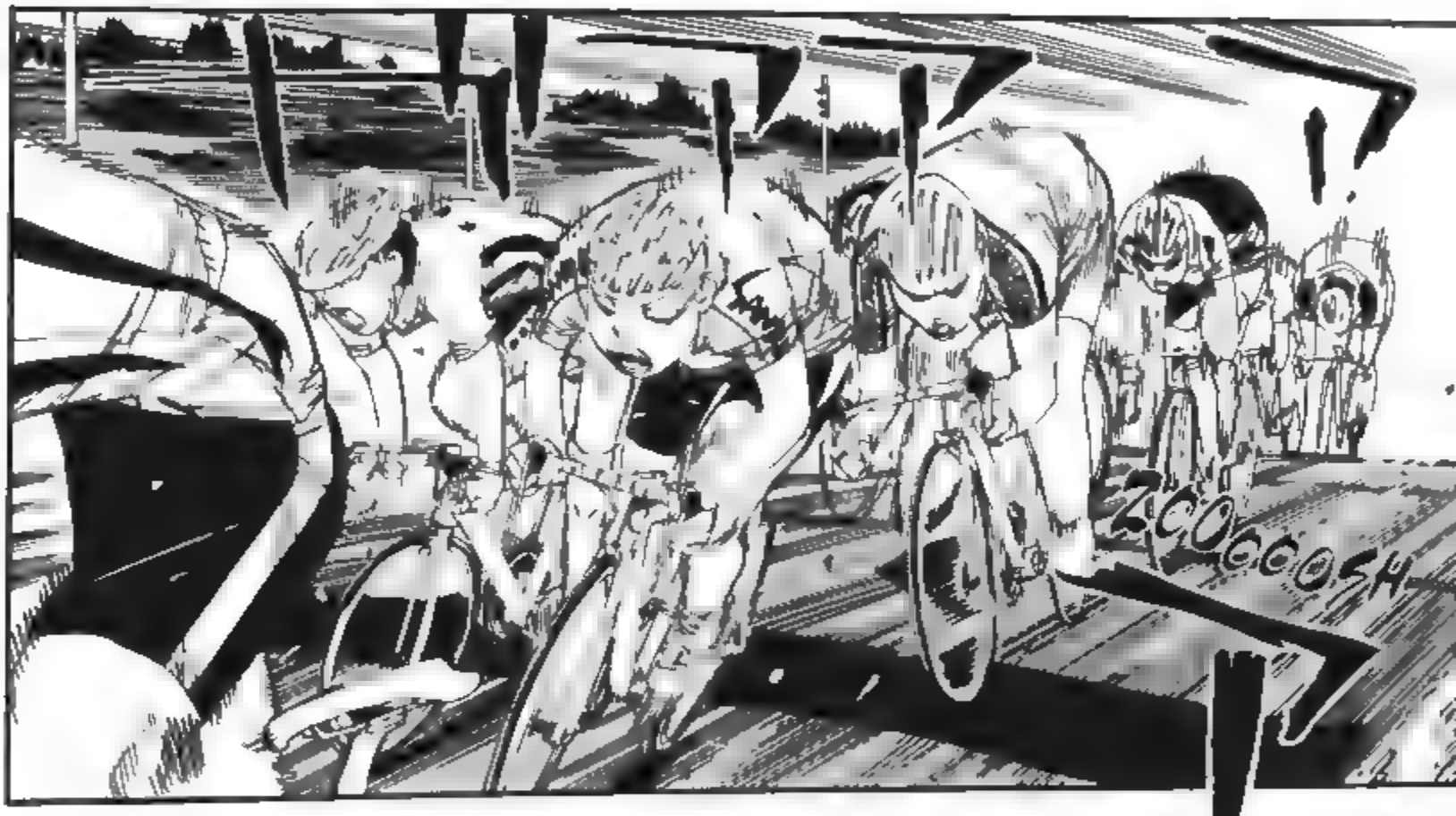
TADOKORO-SAN AND NARUKO-KUN SURE ARE FIRED UP...

.....

.....

SOHO


FWOOM


ZCOOOOSH

THERE'S STILL SOMEONE COMING UP BEHIND US!!
ZOOM
!
!
ZOOSH
ANKLE
HAAH.
HAAH.
HAAH.

THEY MUST BE PLANNING TO HAVE THE OTHER SPRINTER DRAFT BEHIND HIM 'TIL HE GETS CLOSE ENOUGH TO BURST AHEAD AND TAKE THE CHECKPOINT!!

IT'S THE THIRD-YEAR, TADOKORO, AND HIS HUMAN BULLET TRAIN!!

HE'S THE RAMPAGING HUMAN BULLET!!

THEY'VE GOT TWO SPRINTERS TO SEND FOR THIS CHECKPOINT!?

IT'S SOHOKU!! FROM CHIBA!!

ACK... TWO OF THEM!?

THAT JERSEY —

WHO'S AN OLD MAN!?

SAME TO YOU, OLD MAN!

WHAM

DON'T STRAIN YOURSELF.

C'MON, BE THE GROWN-UP HERE.

WHAM

BAM

NO, YOU!

BAM

OUTTA MY WAY!

... THEY... SURE ARE RIDING WELL.

IS THIS SOME KIND OF RUSE!?

THEY'RE JUST IDIOTS!

BUT STILL ...

WHAM

THEY'RE NOT WORKING TOGETHER TO DRAFT AT ALL!!

KANATA
MISAKI

THEY CAME UP FROM BEHIND AND NOW THEY'RE ON US...!!

C'MON! C'MON! C'MON!

HAAARGH!!

THEY'VE CAUGHT UP TO US!

YOU MOVE!

ZOOOOSH

THEY'RE HERE!! AND THEY'RE RIDING SO FAST!

WHAT ARE THEY!?

MOVE!

MOOOVE!!

MOVE!

BANG

BANG

.....!! I SEE...

KANZAKI MISAKI

SERI-OUSLY !?

BUT WHY AREN'T THEY DRAFTING !?

BLATHER

BLATHER

DAMN IT!!

KANZAKI MISAKI

THEY'LL RIDE UP BLATANTLY IGNORING GOOD CYCLING THEORY, THROWING THE REST OF US INTO CONFUSION. WHILE WE'RE DISTRACTED, THEY'LL USE THAT CHANCE...!!

A STRATEGY...!! THIS IS PART OF THEIR PLAN!

I'LL CALL YOUR BLUFF ...

THEY CALL ME "THE WHIRLWIND OF HOKURIKU"!!

I AM SHIBATA OF KANAZAWA-MISAKI— A MAN WHO NEVER WAVERS!

ZOOSH

HOW TRANSPARENT, SOHOKU.

WHOA!!

KANA-ZAWA-MISAKI'S KICKING!

THOOM

...AND LEAVE YOUR PLAN IN SHREDS !!

ALL I NEED TO COUNTERACT THEIR PLAN IS TO STAY CALM.

ZOOSH

...I'LL TAKE IT WITHOUT CON-TEST!!

ONLY 4KM LEFT!! AT THIS RATE...

4 km

SIGN: 4KM TO CHECKPOINT

SHIBATA TOOK ADVANTAGE OF OUR CONFUSION TO BREAK AWAY!

UGH... NO ONE COULD REACT IN TIME.

HE WAS SECRETLY CONSERVING HIS LEG STRENGTH!!

ZOOOOSH

DAMN IT!!

A SUR-PRISE ATTACK!!

OKAY!

GOT-CHA!

YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'D BE INEFFICIENT TO SEND BOTH OF US AFTER HIM.

NIX THE "OLD MAN."

WE CAUGHT UP WITH THE GROUP BUT ONE OF THEM BROKE AWAY!!

WHAT DO WE DO, OLD MAN!!?

SOHOKU!!

ZOOSH

SHWUNG!

JUST TRY CATCHING ME NOW...

...SOHOKU!!

YOU STAY, RED.

YOU CAN STAY HERE, SENPAI.

CLASP

CLASP

SHIMOKO

ALL RIGHT... ALL RIGHT!! I'LL TAKE THAT FIRST RESULT!!

THEY CAN'T CATCH ME!! NO ONE CAN...!!

ZOOOSH

I WAS JUST HINTING THAT SINCE I'M YOUR SENPAI, YOU SHOULD STEP ASIDE AND LET ME GO AHEAD!!

SHOOOM

YOU SAY THAT, BUT YOU WERE GONNA GO AHEAD, WEREN'T YOU!!?

NO WAY !!

SOHOKU

KINZAKI

!!

SOHOKU

KINZAKI

YES WAY! DON'T YOU HAVE ANY RESPECT FOR ME!?

UH...

YOU'D BETTER —!!

ZOCOCSH

!!

!!

HUH ...?

KANANAWA

WHY CAN THEY RIDE SO FAST!?

FLINCH

FLINCH

WHY ...!!?

WHAT ARE THESE TWO...?

ONODA...

HUCUCH !!?

TH-THEY'RE NOT GOING TO GET INTO A FIGHT, ARE THEY?

I'M SURE THEY WILL.

UM...

W-WILL THEY REALLY BE OKAY!?

...IS...

BUT THE REASON THEY'LL SUSTAIN THEIR HIGH SPEEDS...

INDIVIDUALLY, THE BEST EITHER OF THEM COULD DO WOULD PROBABLY BE TO CATCH UP WITH THE OTHER SPRINTERS.

HUH?

CAN YOU GUESS WHY I LET THEM BOTH GO?

NORMALLY, YOU'D BE RIGHT.

BUT IN THEIR CASE, I HAD A DIFFERENT REASON.

I THINK!

S-SO THEY COULD BLOCK THE WIND FOR EACH OTHER?

EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE ON THE SAME TEAM.

ZOOSH

...THAT THEY'RE "RACING" EACH OTHER.

FWOOM

GRIND

GRIND

YOU'RE IN MY WAY!

SOHOKU

YOU ARE IN THE WAY!

SPRINT-ERS...

...ARE JUST THAT KIND OF CREA-TURE!!

NEITHER WANTS TO LET THE OTHER PASS.

HOWEVER, THAT STRATEGY WOULDN'T WORK IF EITHER THOUGHT THEY WERE EVEN A HAIR SLOWER THAN THE OTHER.

"I REFUSE TO LOSE TO THIS GUY"—

IT'S ONLY BECAUSE THEY BOTH TRULY BELIEVE THAT...

...THAT THIS STRATEGY WORKS!!

WHAT DID YOU SAY!?

WHY, YOU LITTLE...!!

SOHOKU

174

172

BUMP

BUMP

IT'S MINE!

HARGH!

ZOOM

PUSHH

PUSHH

JUST LET ME—

SOHOKU

WHO'RE YOU!?

BAM

!

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE HAVING FUN.

ZIP

WON'T YOU...

...ALLOW ME...

ZIIIP

...TO JOIN IN YOUR GAME AS WELL?

FLUTTER

箱根学園

ROBUST

HAKONE ACADEMY .....!!

HAKONE

...AM ALSO CALLED "KANAGAWA'S FASTEST."

I'M TOU-ICHIROU IZUMIDA, A SECOND-YEAR. I...

I THOUGHT I SENSED SOMETHING SUPER-ENERGETIC CHASIN' US DOWN FROM BEHIND.

FWC.COM

RIDE.78 SPRINTING MACHINE!!

SO IT WAS YOU, HAKONE !!

SO HE'S COME... I FIGURED WE'D SEE HAKONE'S SPRINTER.

...WAS HARDLY A CHAL-LENGE.
THOOM
BAFF
...TO ME NOW...
...THAT...
RUMBLE
THANKS... IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.
YOU MANAGED TO BREAK THROUGH THAT GROUP OF TOP SPRINTERS BACK THERE TO REACH US...
I'M TOUICHIROU IZUMIDA.
ZIP
OH...
JAB
RIDE.78
SPRINTING MACHINE!!

THOOM
BAM
FWOOM

YEAH... THAT SECOND-YEAR...

I BUMPED INTO HIM ONCE IN THE SHOWER.

HE'S...

.....!!

HAA.

HAA.

HAAH ...

HAAH ...

DAMN !!

HAA

HAA

HAAH

HE PASSED US SO EASILY...

WHO THE HELL WAS HE!?

ZOOOOSH

HFF.

I CAN'T SEE THEM ANYMORE ...!!

IZUMIDA .....

YOU KNOW HIM?

HAAH

WHEN DID HAKONE GET THAT GUY!?

WE'RE ELITE REGIONAL RIDERS CHOSEN FOR THE INTER-HIGH TOO, YOU KNOW!!

AHHHHHHH!!

DAMN IT ALL!!

THOOM

...A HEAD-TO-TOE SPRINTING MACHINE!!

FLAP

FLAP

THRUST

ZOOM

FWOOM

PRESS

?!

ZAKI C.5

TURN

HIS REACTION TIMES ARE FAST!!

HE'S CAUGHT BACK UP...!!

SO HE'S NOT JUST TALK, IS HE?

HE CAUGHT UP WITH OUR SPEED EASILY !!

ZOOOSH

KANZAKI

CHIKU

SOHOKU

THERE'S THREE KILOMETERS LEFT TO THE FIRST CHECKPOINT...

RUMBLE

SIGN: 3KM TO CHECKPOINT

YOU'VE CAUGHT MY INTEREST!!

OKAY...

KANZAKI

SOHOKU

THOCM

SO BRING IT ON...

...EYE-LASHES!!

HOLD IT.

OH?

I'VE GOTTA SHOW THIS GUY WHAT I CAN DO!!

WHAT'S THE DEAL, OLD MAN!? I WAS JUST ABOUT TO GO "ZOOOOM"!

I THOUGHT THE TIMING WAS PERFECT TO GO FOR IT.

WHAT? YOU'RE NOT RACING FOR THE CHECK-POINT?

WHEN IT'S TIME TO GO, WE GO ALL OUT!

THE SPRINT'S ALL ABOUT GUTS AND TIMING!!

AH...

YES.

I'M SORRY, IS IT BOTHERING YOU?

WHY ARE YOU LEAVING YOUR JERSEY UNZIPPED?

ALSO...

YOU'RE SURPRISINGLY DETAIL-CONSCIOUS, AREN'T YOU?

!!

HOW'D YOU DO IT?

YOUR STRENGTH AND YOUR TRACK RECORD DON'T MATCH... DO THEY!?

SO HOW?

AND YET...

...YOU'VE ONLY PARTICIPATED IN A HANDFUL OF KANTO AREA RACES.

...YOU JUST...

...OUTRODE THE LEAD GROUP OF TOP SPRINTERS TO GET HERE.

ALL RIGHT, THEN. SINCE YOU'RE MY REAL COMPETITION, I'LL EXPLAIN.

FUKUTOMI-SAN'S NEVER EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ANY RIVAL TEAM BUT SOHOKU.

YOU'RE A SHARP ONE. AS EXPECTED.

THEN, STARTING IN THE SPRING, I TRAINED INTENSELY TO REENGINEER IT ALL INTO MUSCLE AND REACH TOP CONDITION BY SUMMER.

DURING BREAK, I ATE HEAVILY TO GET THE NUTRIENTS I WOULD NEED.

TO ENSURE THAT I WOULD ARRIVE AT THIS INTER-HIGH IN PEAK CONDITION.

I RE-ENGINEERED MYSELF.

AND THE MUSCLE BENEATH...

THE BULGING FAT ON MY BODY GRADUALLY MELTED AWAY.

MY INTENSE TRAINING REFORMED MY BODY GRADUALLY, OVER A LARGE SPAN OF TIME.

THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T DO NOTABLY WELL IN ANY OF THE RACES I ENTERED...

BRUSH

IT'S SO MUCH FUN...

TWITCH

TWITCH

...ROSE UP FROM THE FLAB WITH A NEWBORN'S CRY!!

AND MY BODY GREW LIGHTER ...!!

MY SENSES GREW SHARPER AND SHARPER.

FWOOM

POOSH

THOOM

I'VE RID MY BODY OF ALL EXCESS.

I'VE RECRAFTED, RESHAPED, AND REFINED MYSELF.

I HAD MORPHED MYSELF INTO A SPEAR OF PURE MUSCLE!!

SWELL

GRIND

BULGE

OOZE

...I HAVE BECOME PURE MUSCLE ITSELF!!

UNTIL AT LAST...

SHOOM

!

SHUDDER

THUMP

...TAKIN' OFF FOR REAL!!

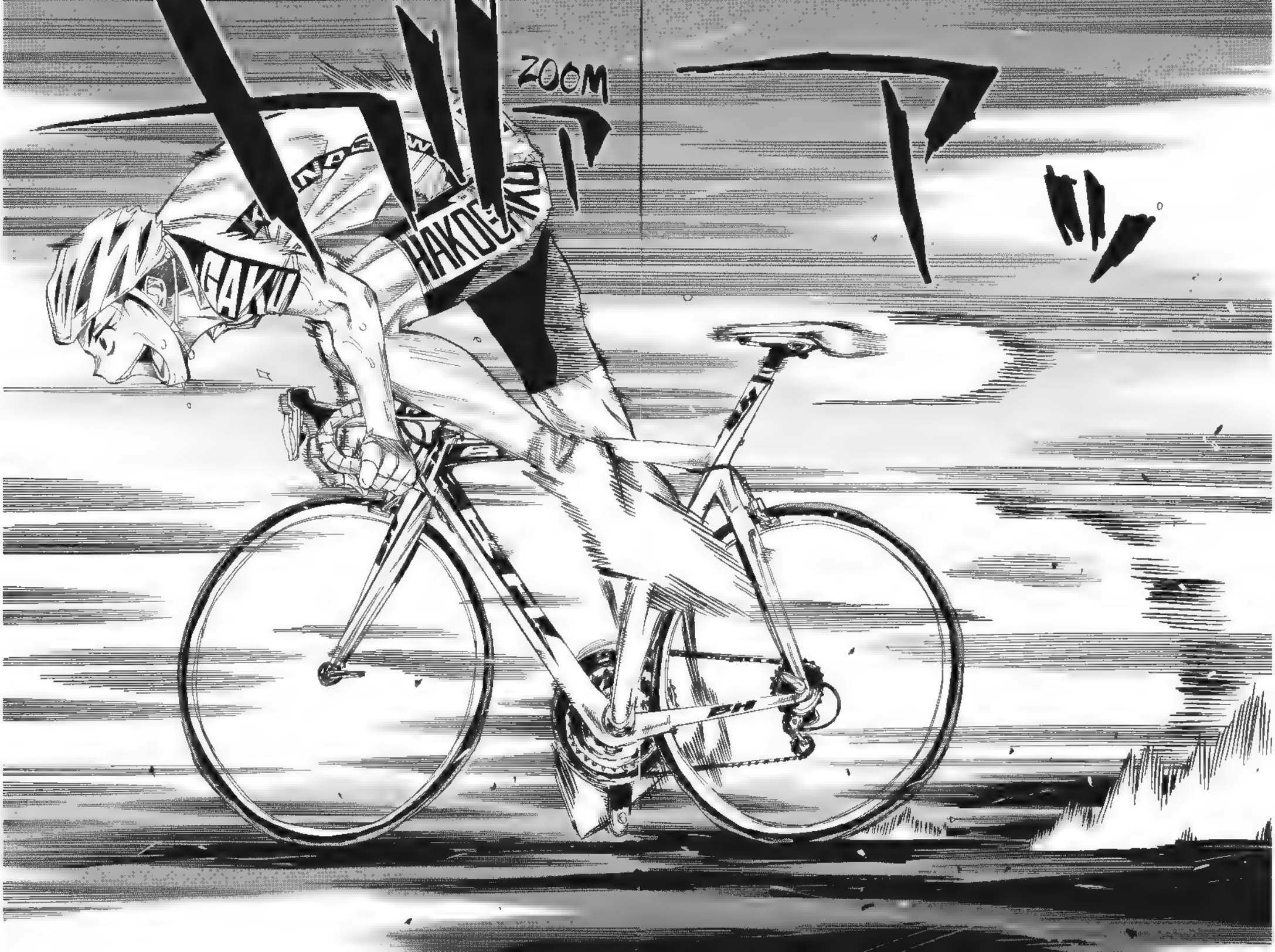
HE'S...

ZOOSH

CRAP...

TWITCH

PRESH


ZOOM
NOSE
AKU
НАКОЁКИ

LIKE WE'D...
THOOM
GRIP
THOOM
THOOM
...LET YOU!
...LET YA!
DOES HE PLAN TO TAKE THE CHECKPOINT UNCHALLENGED!?
...TO FULL SPEED IN AN INSTANT!!
HE WENT FROM ZERO ...
DAMN IT! HE'S TOO FAST !!
SHIMANO

ZOOOSH

ABS!

ABS!

ABS!

SKREE

ABS!!

TAKE YOUR OWN ADVICE, KID!!

OLD MAN!! YOU'VE GOTTA PEDAL LIKE YOU MEAN IT HERE!!

ZOOOOSH

SOHOKU

THE GAP'S WIDENING...

DAMN IT...

ZOOSH

FWOOM

あと 2 km

SIGN: 2KM TO CHECKPOINT

ZOOOOM

OH YES. I DIDN'T ANSWER ONE OF YOUR QUESTIONS, DID I?

HE'S STILL AHEAD!!

172

174

I CLOSE UP...

...MY ZIPPER ...

...ONLY WHEN I'M RIDING HARD.

BUT FOR THIS ONE...

...IT LOOKS LIKE I WON'T NEED TO!

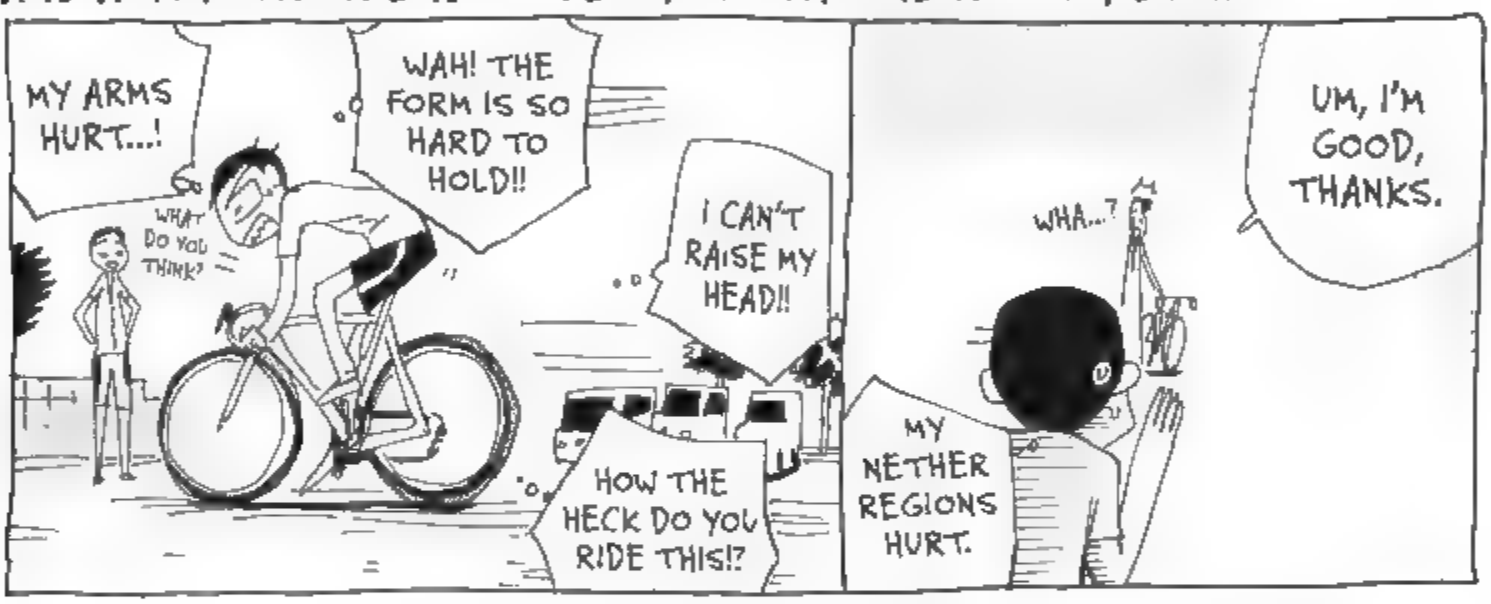
.....!!

NECESSITIES FOR RIDING A ROAD BIKE:

A CHAT ABOUT NECESSARY MUSCLES

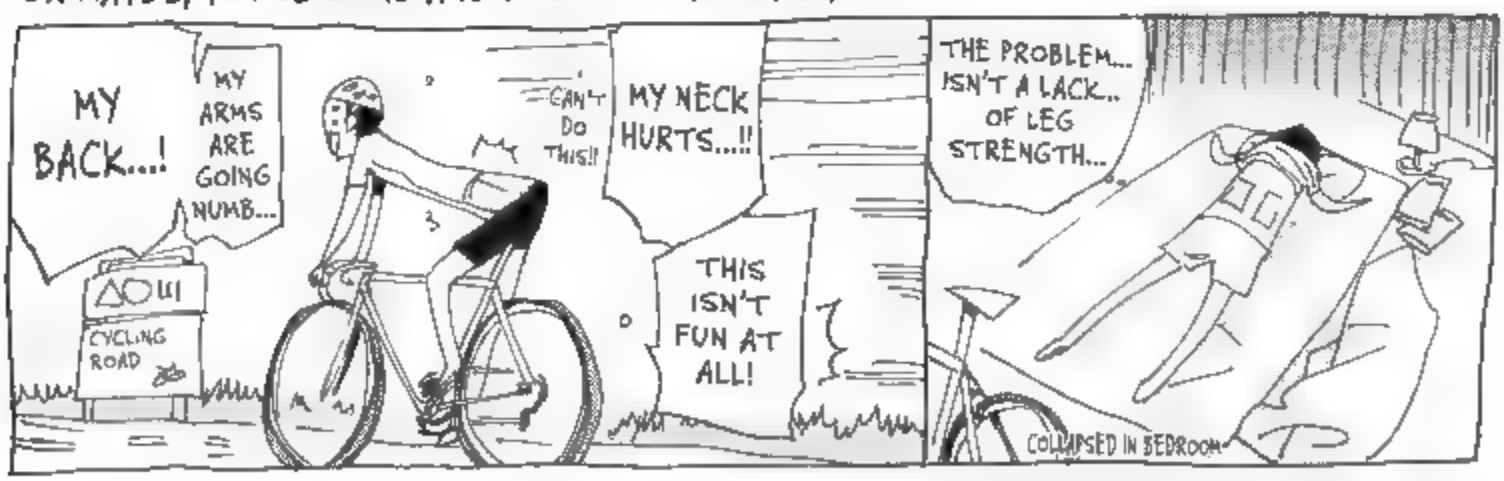
JUST AS SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T EXERCISE REGULARLY CAN'T JUMP UP AND RUN A FULL MARATHON, TO RIDE A ROAD BIKE—WHICH IS, AFTER ALL, A TOOL ONE USES TO COMPETE IN THE SPORT OF ROAD RACING—ONE DOES NEED TO DO A LITTLE TRAINING.

YOU'VE DECIDED YOU'RE GOING TO BUY A ROAD BIKE AND ASK YOUR FRIEND TO LET YOU TRY THEIRS OUT, BUT...


MY ARMS HURT...!
WAH! THE FORM IS SO HARD TO HOLD!!
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I CAN'T RAISE MY HEAD!!
HOW THE HECK DO YOU RIDE THIS!?
WHA...?
UM, I'M GOOD, THANKS.
MY NETHER REGIONS HURT.

HAS THIS HAPPENED TO ANYONE...?

OR MAYBE, YOU'VE GONE AND BOUGHT IT ALREADY, BUT...



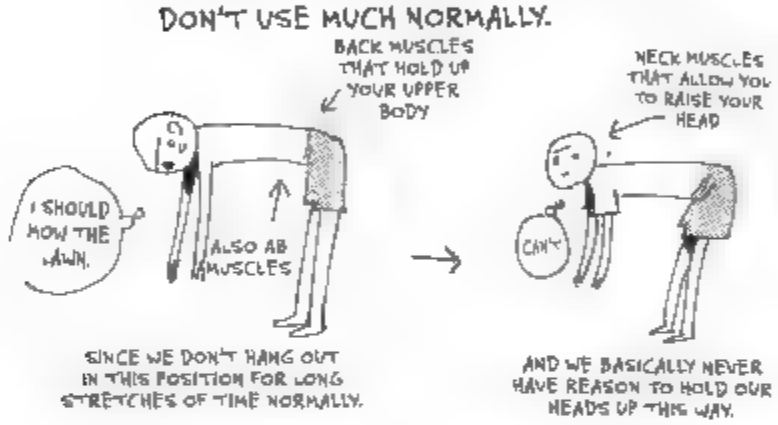
ANYONE OUT THERE LIKE THIS?

THAT'S RIGHT—

MOST OF US CAN'T ABRUPTLY START CYCLING AND BE COMPLETELY OKAY. BECAUSE THERE'S A LITTLE SOMETHING WE'RE LACKING...

HIS CASE IS A BIT EXCESSIVE...

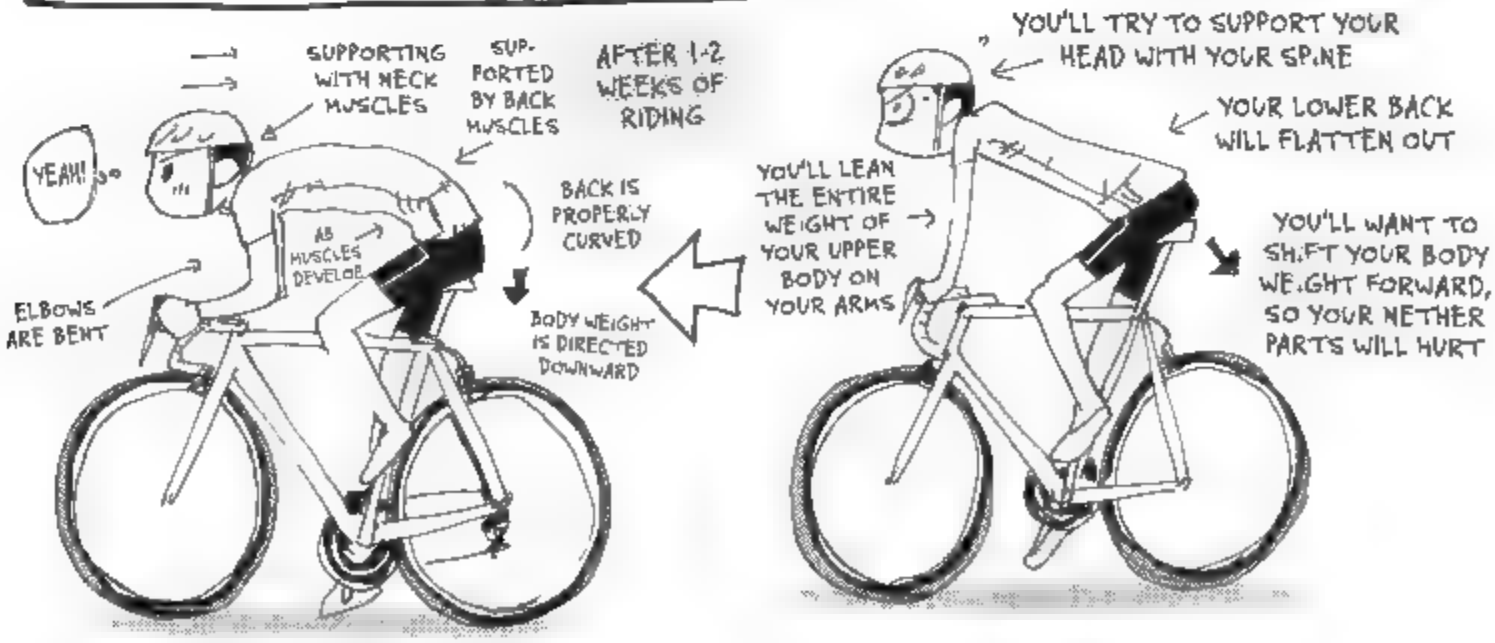
TO RIDE A ROAD BIKE, YOU WILL NEED TO USE MUSCLES YOU LIKELY DON'T USE MUCH NORMALLY.


BACK MUSCLES THAT HOLD UP YOUR UPPER BODY
I SHOULD MOW THE LAWN.
ALSO AB MUSCLES
SINCE WE DON'T HANG OUT IN THIS POSITION FOR LONG STRETCHES OF TIME NORMALLY.
NECK MUSCLES THAT ALLOW YOU TO RAISE YOUR HEAD
CAN'T
AND WE BASICALLY NEVER HAVE REASON TO HOLD OUR HEADS UP THIS WAY.

BUT THERE'S NO SPECIAL EXERCISE YOU NEED TO DO IN ORDER TO RIDE A ROAD BIKE.

JUST RIDE YOUR BIKE LITTLE BY LITTLE EVERY DAY AND YOU WILL NATURALLY BUILD UP THESE MUSCLES.

AT FIRST, YOU'LL LOOK LIKE THIS

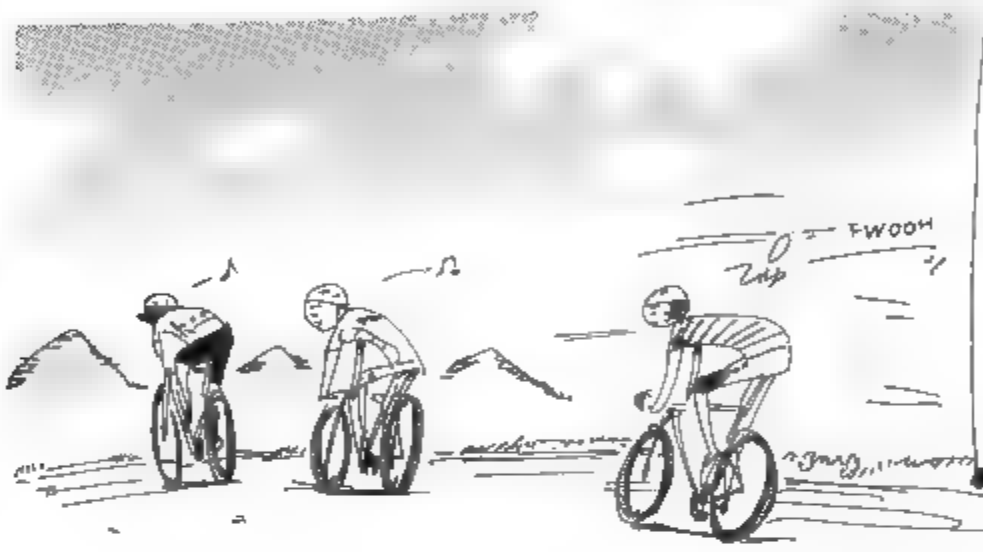

SUPPORTING WITH NECK MUSCLES
SUPPORTED BY BACK MUSCLES
AFTER 1-2 WEEKS OF RIDING
YEAH!
AB MUSCLES DEVELOP
ELBOWS ARE BENT
BACK IS PROPERLY CURVED
BODY WEIGHT IS DIRECTED DOWNWARD
YOU'LL TRY TO SUPPORT YOUR HEAD WITH YOUR SPINE
YOUR LOWER BACK WILL FLATTEN OUT
YOU'LL LEAN THE ENTIRE WEIGHT OF YOUR UPPER BODY ON YOUR ARMS
YOU'LL WANT TO SHIFT YOUR BODY WEIGHT FORWARD, SO YOUR NETHER PARTS WILL HURT

MUSCLES ARE HIGHLY ADAPTABLE, SO YOU MAY DEVELOP WHAT YOU NEED SOONER OR LATER, BUT IN GENERAL, YOUR BODY WILL BECOME ACCLIMATED TO CYCLING AFTER 1-2 WEEKS OF RIDING.

(GRADUALLY)

AND IF YOU KEEP GOING, YOU WILL KEEP DEVELOPING THOSE MUSCLES AND CYCLING WILL BECOME REALLY FUN AND COMFORTABLE. (BUT YOU ALSO INCREASE THE RISK OF STRAINING YOUR BACK MUSCLES TOO. (SIGH))

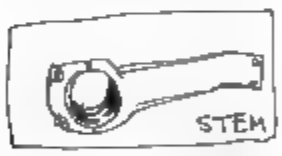
FROM RIDING TOO MUCH



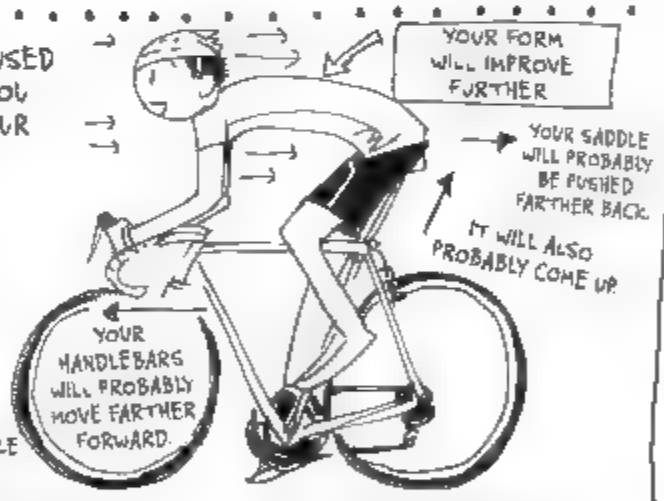
INCIDENTALLY, BACK WHEN YOURS TRULY FIRST STARTED RIDING ROAD BIKES (I'D ONLY RIDDEN MTBS UP UNTIL THEN), USED TO LEAN TOO FAR FORWARD AND COULD NEVER GET INTO A SECURE FEELING POSITION OR FEEL LIKE COULD TRUST THE OVERLY THIN-FEELING WHEELS, OR I'D COMPLAIN THAT THE LACK OF A BICYCLE SUSPENSION SYSTEM MADE THE RIDE TOO BUMPY AND UNPLEASANT. IN SHORT, I OFTEN THOUGHT IT WASN'T FUN TO RIDE A ROAD BIKE. (HEH)

BUT SINCE I'D GONE AND BOUGHT IT, I D DN'T WANT IT TO GO TO WASTE, SO I STARTED RIDING IT A BIT EVERY DAY AFTER ABOUT A WEEK, SUDDENLY REALIZED, "OHH? THIS FEELS A LOT MORE PLEASANT THAN I WAS THINKING... IN FACT, IT'S A LOT MORE FUN THAN I THOUGHT!!" AND SO, HAD A CHANGE OF HEART... BASICALLY.

WHEN YOU GET MORE USED TO YOUR ROAD BIKE, YOU CAN DO THIS TO UP YOUR SPEED AND CADENCE!



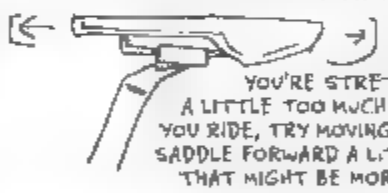
THIS PIECE THAT HOLDS UP THE HANDLEBARS IS CALLED THE STEM. DO SOME RESEARCH FOR A GOOD BRAND AND CUSTOMIZE THIS PART OF YOUR BIKE


YOUR FORM WILL IMPROVE FURTHER
YOUR SADDLE WILL PROBABLY BE PUSHED FARTHER BACK.
IT WILL ALSO PROBABLY COME UP
YOUR HANDLEBARS WILL PROBABLY MOVE FARTHER FORWARD.

YOU'LL END UP SWAPPING OUT A LOT OF PARTS FOR HIGHER-END PIECES.

TRY OUT DIFFERENT PARTS TO FIND THE ONES THAT'LL LET YOU RIDE AS YOU LIKE!!

SADDLES CAN BE ADJUSTED ABOUT 2CM BOTH FORWARD AND BACK.



IF YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE STRETCHED A LITTLE TOO MUCH WHEN YOU RIDE, TRY MOVING YOUR SADDLE FORWARD A LITTLE. THAT MIGHT BE MORE COMFORTABLE FOR YOU.

INCIDENTALLY, YOU CAN ALSO ADJUST THE ANGLE OF THE SADDLE. THE NORM IS TO KEEP IT LEVEL, BUT IF YOU'RE STILL HAVING PAIN IN YOUR NETHER PARTS, YOU COULD EXPERIMENT WITH LOWERING THE FRONT.

FEEL FREE TO TRY VARIOUS THINGS OUT!

BONUS

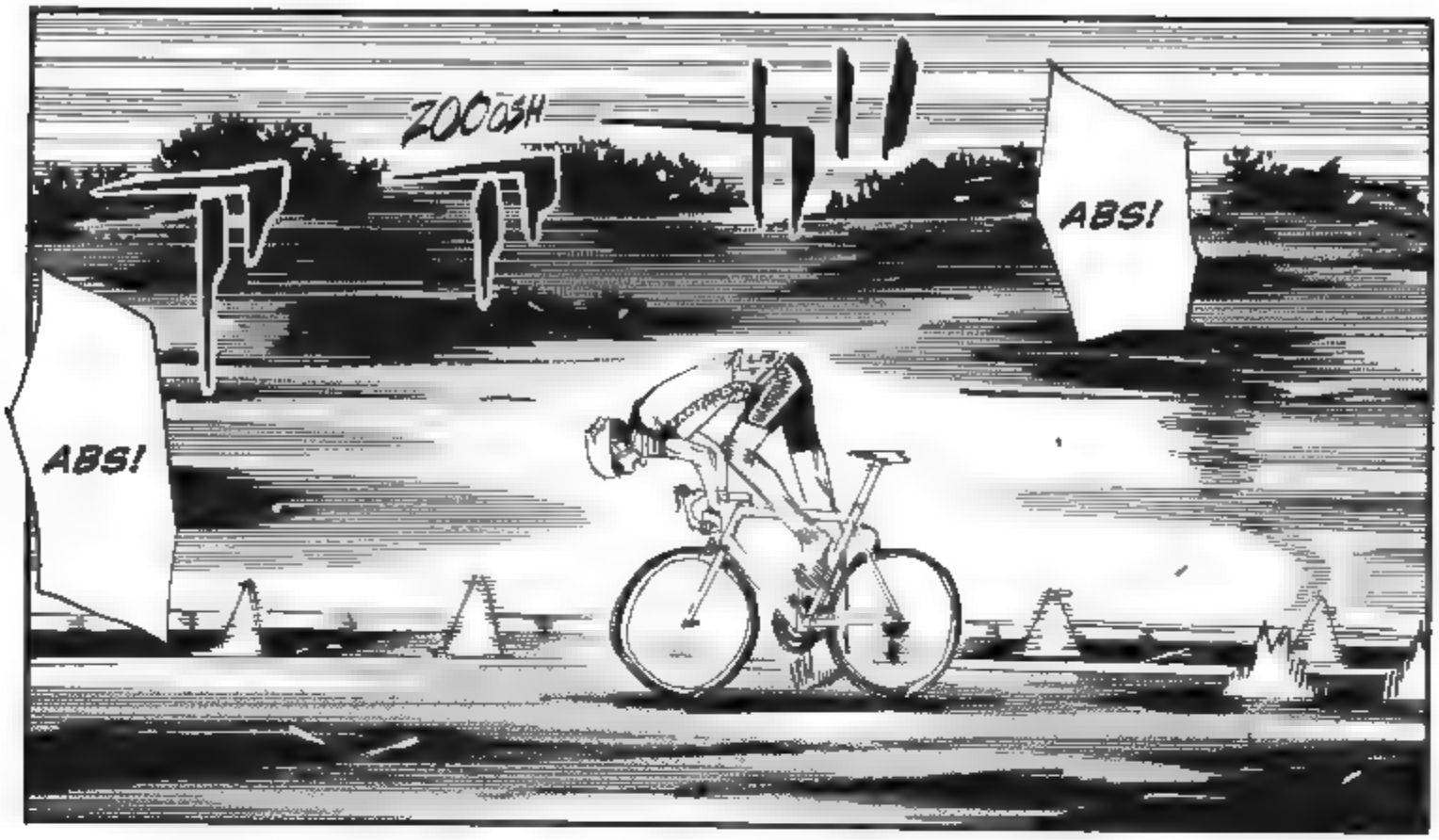
ONCE YOU START RIDING YOUR ROAD BIKE REGULARLY...

...YOU MAY FIND THAT CERTAIN HOUSE-CLEANING CHORES WILL SUDDENLY BE A BREEZE. (LOL!)

YOWAMUSHI
PEDAL

RIDE.79 ATONEMENT

YOWAMUSHI PEDAL
IZUMIDA


ZOOOSH
ABS!
ABS!

LUNGE
ABS!!

ABS! ABS!
ABS! ABS!
ABS! ABS!
ABS! ABS!
SOHOKU
...CLOSE IN!!
DAMN IT!! WE CAN'T...
ABS!!

C'MON! C'MON! C'MON!!
HAAA-ARGH!!
ZOOOOSH
HFF! HFF!
HFF! HFF!
IZUMIDA...!! WE'RE ONLY 11,800 METERS FROM THE FIRST CHECK-POINT...!!
DAMN IT...!! THIS GUY'S THE REAL DEAL!!
1,700 NOW...!!
HE'S SPEEDIN' UP EVEN MORE!!
THOOM
LUNGE
HUFF! JAM
GRAB
SQUEEEZE
SOHOKU
KANZAKI
PINARELLO

THERE'S MORE TO HIM THAN HIS CRAZY EYE-LASHES !!

THIS GUY... HAKONE ACADEMY'S NUMBER FIVE...

ZOOOSH

SOHOKU

.....

ZIII

.....

...S-SINCE NARUKO-KUN AND TADOKORO-SAN SET OUT. I WONDER IF THEY'RE DOING OKAY...

IT'S BEEN A WHILE NOW...

HEY, KINJOU!

...WE SHOULD CONSIDER HIM A FEARSOME OPPONENT.

NO... IF FUKUTOMI CHOSE TO SEND HIM...

THERE'S NOTHING NOTABLE IN THE DATA WE HAVE ON HAKONE ACADEMY'S IZUMIDA.

I'M NOT SURE.

WHO CAN SAY?

WHOA... HE CAME BACK HERE...

WHAT THE—!?

WHOAA!

CHATTER

...FROM THE VERY FRONT OF THE PACK...!

WHAT!?

CHATTER

ZIIP

BRAKE

YOU'VE GOT A VISITOR ...

SEE?

IT'S THE THIRD-YEAR ACE OF HAKONE ACADEMY ...!!
FUKUTOM!!
THOOM
BRAKE
KANAGAWA
HAKONGAKU
1
KINJOU !!
...
IT'S BEEN A WHILE...
.....
ZING
FUKU-TOMI!!
THOOM
...YEAH!!

WHY!?

CHATTER

HE'S RIDING NEXT TO THE CAPTAIN OF SOHOKU HIGH FROM CHIBA!

CHATTER

THE CAPTAIN OF HAKONE ACADEMY IS...

WHOOOOA...!

BEFORE EVERYTHING STARTS, THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TELL YOU. THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.

KIN-JOU...

.....

WHAT HAPPENED AT LAST YEAR'S INTER-HIGH!?

IS IT BECAUSE OF...

OH..! UM, IS IT .

I—

ZIIIP

I AM STRONG !!

ZING

WHAT THE —!?

WAS THAT A CHAL-LENGE FROM HAKONE!?

CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATTER

!? STR...

BAM

BUT...

...AND LOST TO YOU. WHICH...

LAST YEAR, I ALLOWED MYSELF TO BECOME CONCEITED, DRUNK ON THAT THOUGHT...

SOHOKU

KANZAKI

171

...LED ME TO DO SOMETHING TO YOU I NEVER SHOULD HAVE.

SOHO

I REGRETTED IT HORRIBLY. I WAS ASHAMED. AND I REALIZED IT WAS A WRONG I COULD NEVER PUT RIGHT.

ZHIIP

IN ATONE-MENT...

.....

ZOOM

I HAVE NO WAY OF ATONING FOR WHAT I DID BUT TO RACE YOU...

I...

.....AM INCAPABLE OF DOING ANYTHING BUT RACING YOU.

...FAIR AND SQUARE, UPON THIS INTER-HIGH ROAD. THAT'S WHAT I'VE REALIZED.

THAT'S WHY I'VE WAITED A FULL YEAR.

KANADA

A FULL YEAR...

...I COULD KNEEL DOWN AND APOLOGIZE TO YOU A HUNDRED TIMES OVER...

CLERCH

...BUT AS YOU SAID, THAT WON'T CHANGE THE RESULTS OF THAT DAY.

THAT'S WHY I'VE ASSEMBLED THE STRONGEST TEAM POSSIBLE!!

...WITH THE ULTIMATE TEAM I'VE BUILT—AND I WILL DEFEAT YOU!! I WILL CRUSH YOU!!

KINJOU...!! I WILL RACE YOU...

NO MATTER HOW RELENT-LESSLY YOU PURSUE ME...

...I WON'T LOSE TO YOU!!

THAT'S HOW I'LL PAY YOU BACK!!

GEEZ...THIS GUY TAKES EARNESTNESS TO A NEW LEVEL...

.....

THUMP

I WON'T LOSE EITHER.

SOHOKU

SOHOKU

TWO...

THEN YOU'VE SENT *TOO FEW.*

WE'LL START BY TAKING THE FIRST CHECK-POINT.

BECAUSE I'VE BUILT A TEAM THAT CAN STAND AGAINST YOURS IN EVERY ASPECT.

OUR SPRINTER, IZUMIDA, HAS A SPECIAL ABILITY...

IT'S TOO BAD, KINJOU.

HUH?

HE'S BUILT HIMSELF UP TO HIS PEAK PHYSICAL AND MENTAL CONDITION SPECIFICALLY FOR THE INTER-HIGH.

WE'VE SENT TWO TOP SPRINTERS FROM THIS TEAM FOR IT!!

NO CYCLIST WHO HAS ONLY TRAINED NORMALLY ...

ZOOM

...CAN HOPE TO STOP HIM!!

ABS!

ZOOOOSH

ABS!

ABS !!

HE'S TOO FRIGGIN' FAST!!!

ZOOSH

HFF!

HFF!

HFF!

HFF!

!!

ZOOSH

WHY AREN'T YOU COOPERATING WITH EACH OTHER...?

TURN

WHY !!?

ONE OF YOU SHOULD ACT AS A WIND BLOCK...

...TO PRESERVE THE LEG STRENGTH OF THE OTHER... IT'S A BASIC TACTIC.

THAT'S BASIC BICYCLE RACING THEORY.

FWOOM

IT...

...WOULD HAVE SERVED YOU WELL TO USE IT AND CATCH UP TO ME QUICKLY.

BEFORE WE REACHED THIS FINAL ONE-KILOMETER MARK, THAT IS!!

VWAM

SIGN: 1KM TO CHECKPOINT

BUT THE SITUATION CHANGES FROM THIS POINT ONWARD...

THE ROAD AHEAD'S NO LONGER SHELTERED FROM THE WIND!!

SIGN: THROUGH TRAFFIC PROHIBITED FOR CYCLING ROAD RACE

IT'S THE HIGH-WIND SEGMENT!!

HOOOOOOM

FWOOOOH

FWOOH

ALLOW ME TO SAY THIS...

FWOOOM

!!

!!

THROB

THROB

AS SPRINTERS, BOTH OF YOU ARE FAILURES ...!!

FWOOOH

RIDE.80 NO HIDDEN ACES UP OUR SLEEVES!!

HEF! HEF!

20CM

HEF!

HEF!

ANZA

HEF! HEF!

...BEFORE WE REACHED THIS HIGH-WIND SECTION.

AS I SAID, THE TWO OF YOU REALLY NEEDED TO WORK TOGETHER...

...TO AT LEAST DRAW LEVEL WITH ME...

FWOH

THROB

THROB

BETWEEN US AND THE FIRST CHECKPOINT...

FWOOOM

...REMAINS A MERE ONE KILOMETER.

第1計測ポイント

FWOOM

SIGN: 1KM TO CHECKPOINT

OR COULD IT BE...

THERE'S NO WAY FOR YOU TO CLOSE THE GAP BETWEEN US ANY LONGER.

...THAT YOU HAVE SOME HIDDEN ACE UP YOUR SLEEVE TO PLAY?

ABS !!

HFF ...

HFF ...

HFF...

...ACE !?

HFF ...

HFF...

A HID- DEN ...

.....

.....

FWOOM

SOHOKU

KANZAKI

SOHOKU

SOHOKU

.....I SEE... THEN ALLOW ME TO SAY...

NOPE !!

NO WAY !!

RIDE.80 NO HIDDEN ACES UP OUR SLEEVES!!
GAAAAA
...AS SPRINTERS, BOTH OF YOU ARE FAILURES!!
BULGE
BULGE
SWELL
SWELL
THOOM
ABS!!

FWOOM

HAKUGAN

ZOOWHOOOSH

HE'S TEARING AHEAD LIKE THE WIND DOESN'T AFFECT HIM AT ALL!!

F'REAL!? HE'S GOIN' EVEN FASTER NOW!?

ZOOSH

KA-THOOM

KINAGAWA

5

IT'S LIKE HIS DORSAL MUSCLES ARE SPRINGS OR SOME-THING!!

HAKUGAKU

IT ISN'T YOUR LEGS THAT PROPEL YOU ON A BICYCLE!!

THE CORE IS VITAL FOR PUMP-ING YOUR LEGS!

IT'S WHAT SUPPORTS YOUR LEG MUSCLES— YOUR CORE!!

MY DORSAL MUSCLES ARE SPRINGS!!

AND MY ABDOMINAL MUSCLES ARE SHOCK ABSORBERS!!

GAKU

BUUUUGH

YOUR BACK AND ABDOMINAL MUSCLES!!

YOUR BODY'S CORE!!!

HAH!!

ZOOOSH

THERE'S ONLY 800 METERS LEFT, OLD MAN!

ABS, ABS, ABS!!

I KNOW!!

I'VE BUILT MINE UP TO ABSOLUTE PERFEC-TION!!

FWCOM

KANZA

C'MON! C'MON !!

HAAARRGHH!!

ZOOCOM

ZOOSH

SURP

SQUEEZE

LITTLE BY LITTLE...

IT'S JUST BY THE TINIEST BITS, BUT...

ZOOSH

ZOOOSH

...HE KEEPS PULLIN' FARTHER AHEAD!!

THIS GUY'S BECOME A SERIOUS DANGER...

ZOOSH

...NOW 730..... 720!!

NOW 740...

ZOOOSH

ONLY... 750 METERS LEFT...

SOHOKU

172

172

I TOLD YOU, I DON'T HAVE ONE!!

SOHOKU

SOHOKU

FWOOM

C'MON!! WHERE'S YOUR BACKUP PLAN, RED!?

SOHOKU

SHOOoM

...BUT THEY STILL REFUSE TO COOPERATE TOGETHER.

THEY'RE ON THE SAME TEAM...

...OR PRIDE?

IS IT STUBBORN-NESS...

WHAT FAILURES ...!

HONESTLY...

I'D EXPECTED THEM TO HAVE SOME SECRET PLAN...

HOW IDIOTIC!! EVEN AFTER ALL THIS, THEY'RE STILL RIDING LEVEL RATHER THAN DRAFTING!!

NOPE !!

NO WAY !!

...BUT THEY DON'T!!

ZOOSH

IT'S MUCH TOO SOON !!

OOPS! NO, I CAN'T START GRINNING YET.

I CAN SMILE AFTER I'VE TAKEN THE CHECK-POINT.

...AND SHOOT FORTH LIKE AN ARROW !!

A HUNTER STALKING ITS PREY MUST NEVER LET UP FOR A MOMENT...

I PUSHED MY-SELF...

...TRAINED HARD...

I'LL LET MYSELF SMILE AFTER THAT!!

...TO THE FIRST CHECK-POINT!

RIGHT NOW, I NEED TO CLEAR THESE FINAL 700 METERS...

FWOOM

THE FIRST RESULTS OF THE INTER-HIGH...

THE RESULTS THAT WILL HAVE THE GREATEST IMPACT ON THE RACE...!

THIS IS THE MOMENT THE NAME OF TOUICHIROU IZUMIDA...

AND NOW AT LAST, I'M FINALLY HERE...!!

...AND HONED MYSELF ...!!

...WILL SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE COUNTRY!!

I WILL BE KNOWN AS "THE FASTEST, STRONGEST SPRINTER"!!

...YOUR NEEDLESS PRIDE, I MEAN.

GLANCE

IF YOU HAD...RID YOURSELVES OF IT, YOU COULD HAVE AT LEAST PUT UP A BIT OF A FIGHT BEFORE WE REACHED THE GOAL...

YOU REALLY SHOULD HAVE LET GO OF IT.

I TOLD YOU ALREADY! I'M OUT!!

BUT YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING YOU'VE BEEN SAVING FOR THE INTER-HIGH, RIGHT!?

WHAM

BAM

IF YER PLANNIN' TO DO SOMETHING, YOU'D BETTER PULL IT OUT NOW!

WE'VE ONLY GOT 700 METERS LEFT!!

HOPELESS... POINTLESS...

TO THE INTER-HIGH, OF ALL PLACES....

COMING HERE UNPREPARED.

HMPH.

TCH!

I'M OUT... BUT—

SMEAR

I'M OUT TOO, BUT—

AND RECKLESS...!!

THE THREE WORDS I HATE MOST!!

LOSING HERE IS JUST OUT OF THE QUES-TION!

SOHOKU

高校

GRIP

SOHOKU

高校

zip

TOSS

CAN YOU JUST PRETEND YOU DIDN'T SEE WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO IN THESE NEXT 700 METERS?

TOSS

SPLISH

THAT BEIN' THE CASE, SENPAI...

GRAB

YOU'RE LIGHTENING UP BY TOSSING YOUR BOTTLES, HUH?

HEY, HEY! I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY KILLER TECHNIQUES.

'COS YOU'RE THE ONE PERSON I DIDN'T WANT TO SHOW THIS TO, SENPAI.

I TOLD YA NOT TO LOOK.

FWOOOOH

YOU CALLED THIS THE "HIGH-WIND SECTION."

.....

?

RIGHT, EYE-LASHES .....!!?

A CHANGE IN THE AIR...?

TWITCH

WHAT?

FWOOH

THE SPEED-STER OF NA-NIWA...

...IS FRIENDS WITH THE WIND.

WELL, THAT'S JUST FINE WITH ME— 'COS I LOVE THE WIND!!

ZOOOOM

!

PRESS

...I BLAST STRAIGHT TOWARD THE FINISH!!

FWOOM

HOKU

17

GRIII

TAKE A GOOD LOOK! I'VE GONE FROM "SPEEDSTER NARUKO"...

...AND WEIGHT ...

PRESS

PRESS

HOKU

REDUCIN' MY WIND RESIS-TANCE...

HOKU

17

TUCK

HARRRRRGHH!!
THOOM
ZOCOCSH
THUMP
SLICIN' MY PATH THROUGH THE WIND...
THOOM
...TO "ROCKET-MAN NARUKO" !!
PINARELLO
WELL, THERE'S NO HELPING IT NOW.....CAN'T LET HIM HOG ALL THE SPOTLIGHT, CAN I? ...GUESS I'LL GO TOO.
TCH.
SUUUCK
SUUUCK
TADO-KORO'S KILLER ...
...WITH MY ROCKET SPRINT STYLE!!!

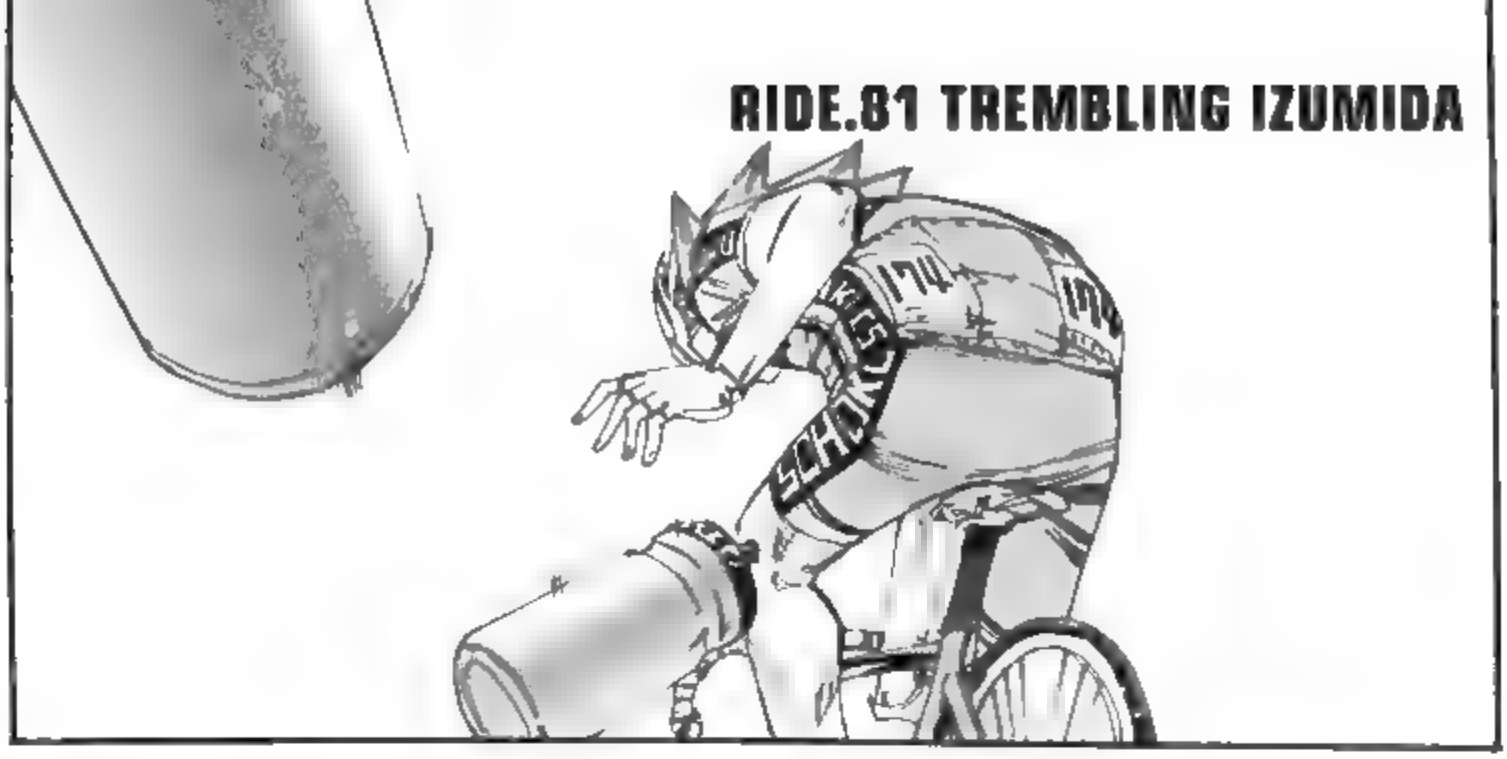
SUUUUCK

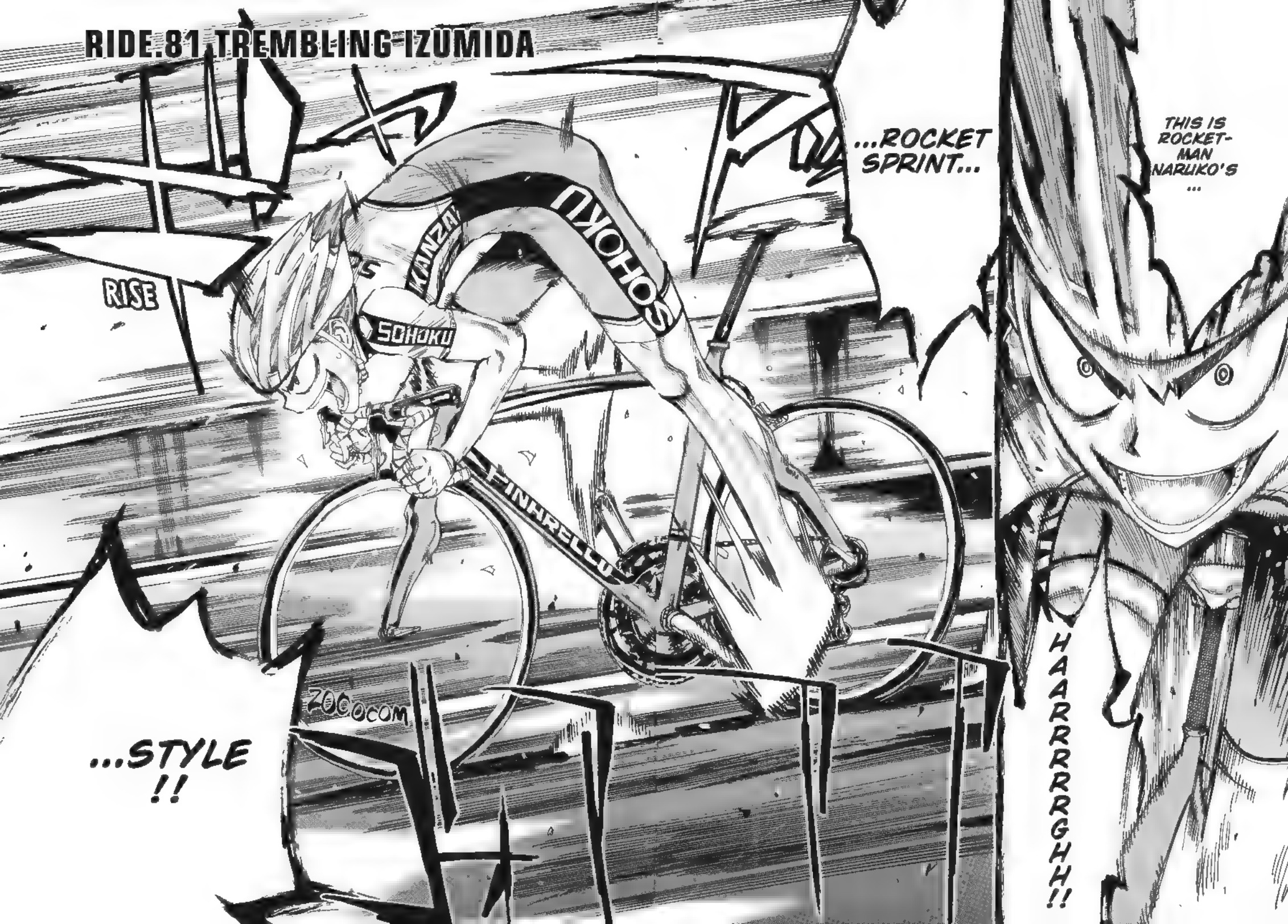
HOLD

WH-WHAT'S WITH THESE TWO!?

!?

RIDE.81 TREMBLING IZUMIDA




RIDE.81 TREMBLING IZUMIDA
RISE
KANZAI
NYOHOS
SOHOKU
FINHRE
...STYLE !!
...ROCKET SPRINT...
THIS IS ROCKET-MAN NARUKO'S ...
HAARRRRGHH!!

THOOM

ZOOOOOM

THAT'S HIS FASTEST SPEED YET!!

...REDUCING HIS WIND RESISTANCE TO THE ABSOLUTE MINIMUM...!!

THEN HE TUCKED HIS JERSEY INTO HIS SHORTS TO MAKE IT LIE FLAT AGAINST HIS BODY...

HE THREW AWAY HIS WATER BOTTLES TO REDUCE HIS WEIGHT.

THIS MINDSET THAT ATTEMPTS TO PUSH EVEN A CENTIMETER FARTHER OR A SECOND FASTER— IT'S LIKE A TIME TRIAL RACER!!

WE'RE 600 METERS TO THE CHECK-POINT...

IT'S AS IF HE'S COMPETING ON A FLAT COURSE TO ACHIEVE THE ABSOLUTE FASTEST TIME POSSIBLE!!

FWOOM

TO HECK WITH THEORY!

...SO HE'S TRYING TO GO ALL OUT!!

ALL I'M AFTER ...

ZOOOSH

...IS HOW FREAKIN' FLASHY AND COOL I LOOK GOIN' AT TOP SPEED!!

ANDY ...!!

GRASP

THROB

ANDY AGREES THAT WE'VE NEVER FACED A COMPETITOR OF THIS LEVEL BEFORE...!!

CLENCH

FINE WITH ME!

KAMIKAZE

HANDS

GRAB

LEAN

IMPOS-SIBLE...!!

TURN

!!

LEAN

FRANK, MY LEFT PEC, SENSES SOMETHING TOO!?

THROB

LOOM

SCHOOL'S SHINKU

EXHAAAAE

SUUUUCK

...IS ON THE MOVE AS WELL!!

THE SECOND SOHOKU SPRINTER, TADOKORO...

I'VE GOT TO DEFEND MY HONOR AS A THIRD-YEAR!!

CAN'T GO LETTING SOME FIRST-YEAR OR SECOND-YEAR TAKE THIS CHECK-POINT, CAN I?

SUUUCK

I WANTED TO SAVE THIS FOR LATER IN THE RACE, BUT...!!

THIS BROAD CHEST OF MINE...

BULGE

BULGE

...CONTAINS BONES, MUSCLES...

RUMBLE

!?

HOLD

!?

STRETCH

...GO THINKING I'M JUST SOME WIND BLOCK FOR THE PACE-LINE...

STRETCH

BULGE

BULGE

DON'T...

THOOM
総北高校
自転車競技部
...AND MY GIANT LUNGS !!
COME ON...!!
TENSE
SNAP
TENSE
OKU

HYOHO S
SOKI
OXYGEN!!
THOOM

THAT ISN'T NORMAL!!

THROB

THROB

WHIRL

ZOOSH

BUT MY LUNG CAPAC-ITY...

SOHOO

SOHOO

A NORMAL PERSON'S LUNG CAPACITY IS AROUND 3,000-4,000CC.

ZOOSH

...IS 8,500!!

THOOM!

...SUFFICIENT OXYGEN!!

...IS SUF-FICIENT ENERGY AND...

WHEN PLAYING SPORTS, WHAT YOUR MUSCLES NEED IN ORDER TO MOVE...

PUMP

...AND CHANGES INTO PHYSICAL POWER!!

WHEN THE ENERGY TRANSPORTED THROUGH YOUR BLOOD VESSELS COMES IN CONTACT WITH OXYGEN, IT IGNITES...

AND WITH IT, MY MUSCLES TURN THE CRANK AND PROPEL MY BIKE FORWARD!!

SO I CAN TAKE EVERY BITE OF ENERGY I CONSUME ...

... AND ...

BUT OXYGEN DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY.

YOU CAN CRAM AS MUCH ENERGY DOWN YOUR THROAT AS YOU LIKE.

NOW WATCH !

THIS ...

...IGNITE IT INTO POWER!!

THAT'S WHY ATHLETES BUILD UP THEIR LUNGS!!

...OXYGEN-FUELED SONIC-SPEED HUMAN BULLET!!!
THOOM
SOHOKU
...IS TADOKORO'S KILLER...
OX.....
...Y.....
...GEN!!
FWOOM
172
I WON'T LOSE!!
THAT'S AWESOME!! TOTALLY AWESOME, OLD MAN!!
QUIT CALLING ME THAT!!
FWOOM

I APOLO-GIZE.

!?

I CALLED YOU "UN-PREPARED AND UNTHINK-ING"...

BUT I WAS WRONG.

ZOOM

I SAID YOU WERE FAILURES AS SPRINTERS, BUT THAT WAS A HASTY MISJUDGMENT.

I UNDER-ESTIMATED YOU BOTH.

THE TWO OF YOU...

FWOOM

ZOOOSH

I APOLOGIZE.

...ARE EXCELLENT SPRINTERS!!

ZOOOOSH

SO NOW...

...FOR THESE ...

...FINAL 400 METERS TO THE CHECK-POINT...

ZIIIP

...AND YOUR STRENGTH.

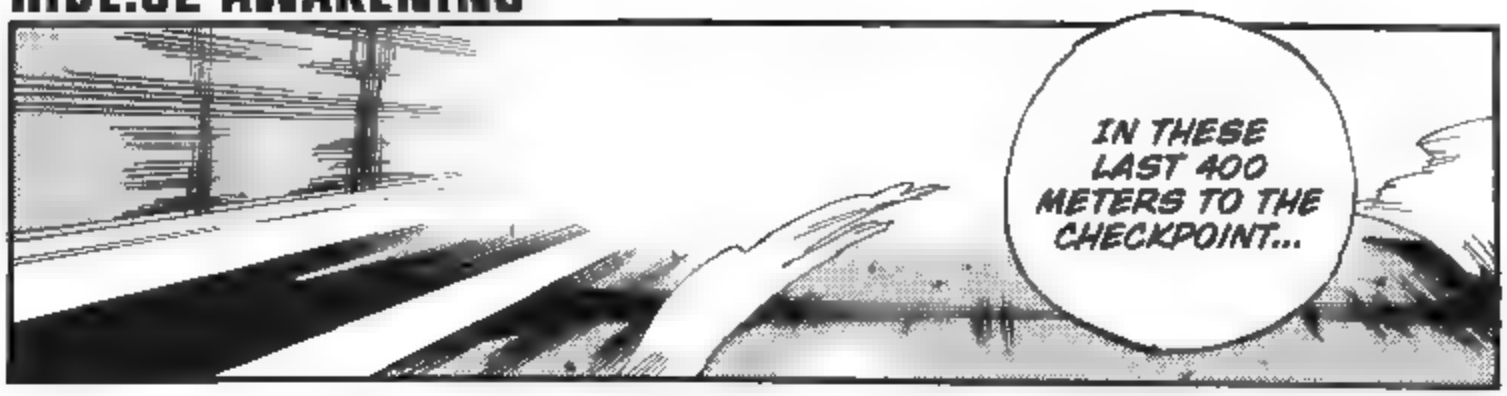
I ADMIRE YOUR PRIDE...

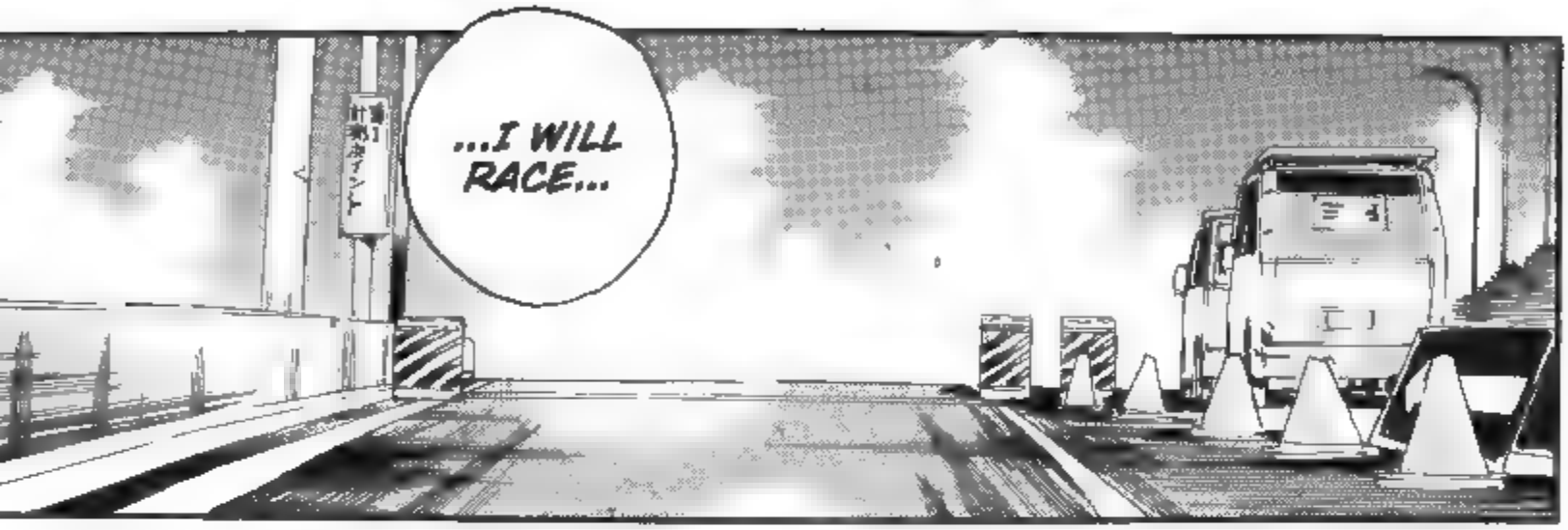
...I...

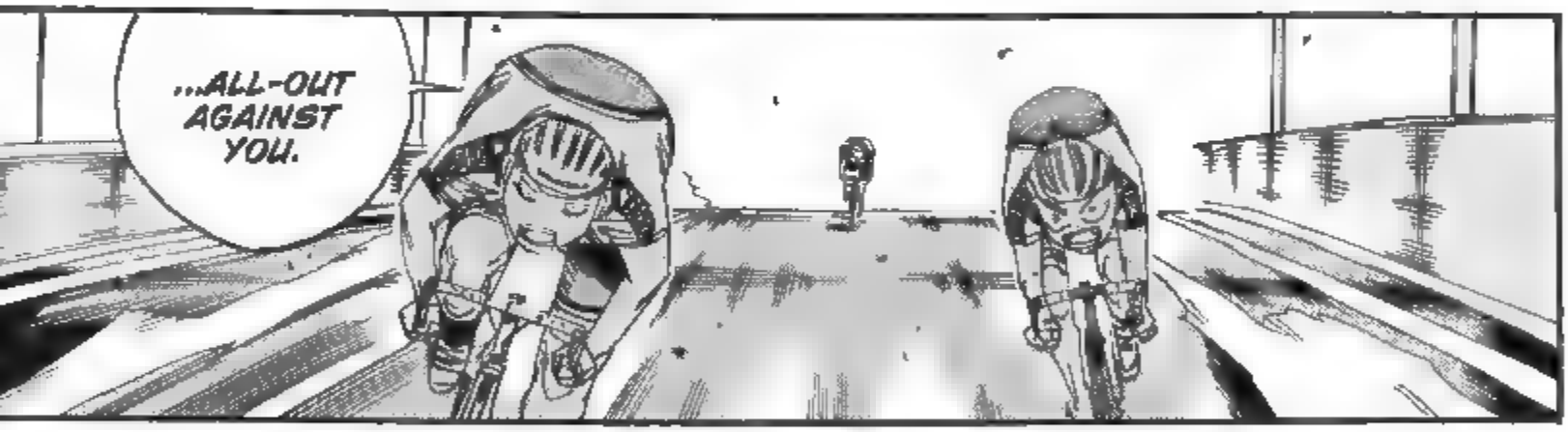
COME...
IT'S TIME
FOR US TO
WORK!!
ANDY...!
FRANK...!
LET'S DO
THIS!!

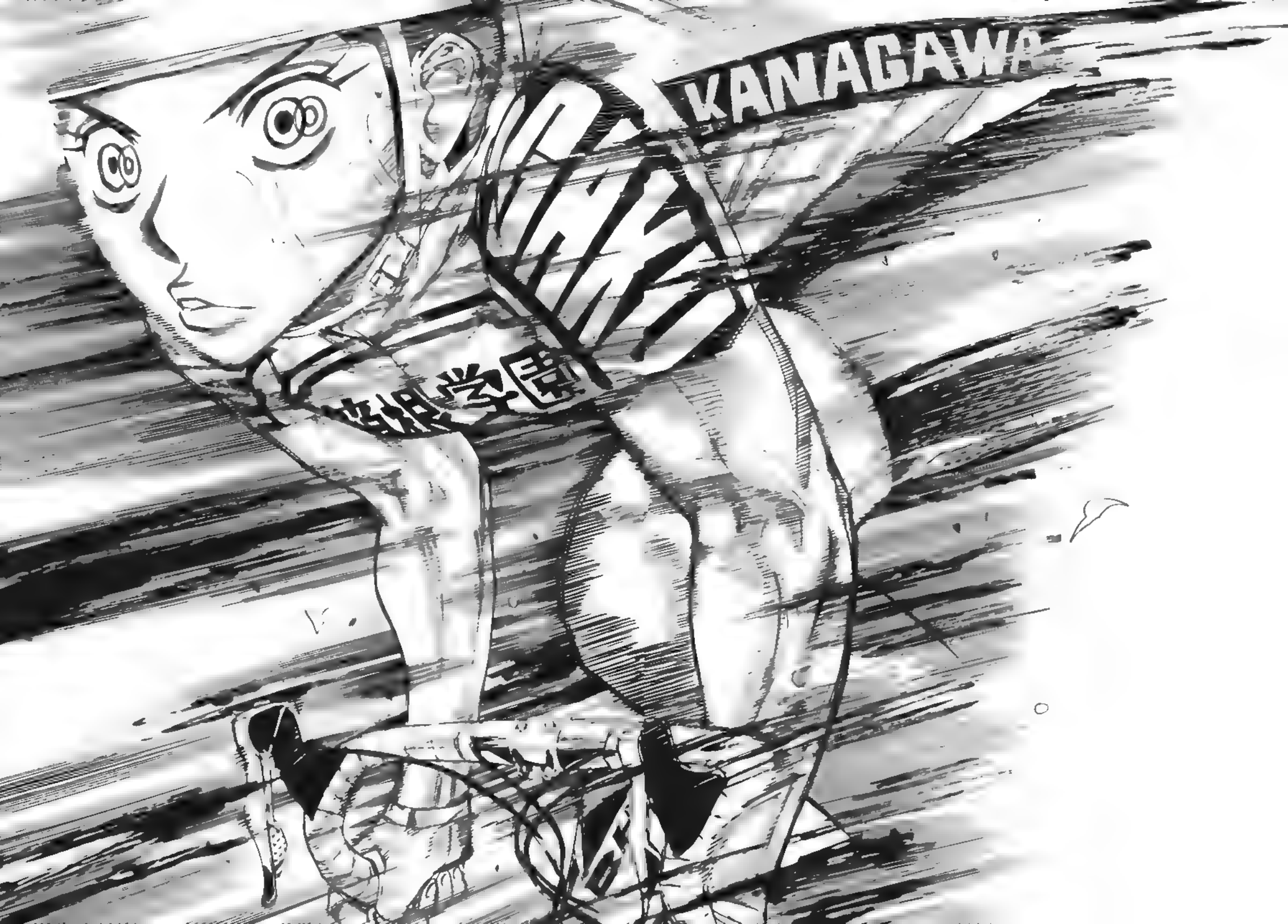
...WILL
RACE
ALL-OUT
AGAINST
YOU!!

RIDE.82 AWAKENING








KANAGAWA

RIDE.82
AWAKENING
ABS!
ABS!
ABS!
ABS!
ABS!
ABS!
ZIIIP
ZOOOOOM
SOHOKU
HERE HE COMES!!
EYE-LASHES-KUN !!
HE FINALLY ZIPPED UP HIS JERSEY !!
VOOM
ABBBBBS!!

SBA!
SBA!
SBA!
SBA!

200 0/H

SBA!
SBA!

SBAA-
AA!!

ZOOM

MY RIGHT PEC, ANDY...

SHOOM

HE SUPPORTS MY CORE AND PUSHES MY LUNGS TO PROPEL ME FORWARD!!

箱根学院...IS EXCLUSIVELY AGGRESSIVE!!

BUT HE CAN ALSO APPLY PRESSURE TO MY HEART TO SEND MORE BLOOD THROUGH MY BODY WHEN I ACCELERATE!!

HE'S CAUTIOUS, YET BOLD!!

MEANWHILE, MY LEFT PEC, FRANK, IS MORE CAUTIOUS!! HE SENSES POTENTIAL DANGERS.

ZOOSH

IT'S ODD..

THOUGH I RAISED THEM IN THE SAME WAY, THEY'VE DEVELOPED SUCH DIFFERENT PERSONALITIES!!

BUT THAT'S FINE!!

THEY'VE GROWN UP WELL!!

SBA!!

FWOOM

YES!! MY ENTIRE BODY...

...HAS BEEN HONED INTO A FINELY SHARPENED SPEAR!!

...ESPECIALLY FOR THIS INTER-HIGH...!!

THE MAIN THING IS THAT THEY WERE TRAINED...

IT CAN RIDE FASTER AND STRONGER THAN ANYONE!!

ZOOCOSH

IT CAN DO BATTLE!! IT CAN SLICE ITS WAY THROUGH!!

AS I AM NOW, I COULD RIDE DOWN A LINE ONLY A FEW MILLIMETERS WIDE!!

MY BODY MOVES AS I WILL IT!

ANDY...! FRÄNK...!!

IT'S PERFECT!

...I HAVE ALWAYS ASPIRED TO!!
THIS IS THE KIND OF CYCLING...
YOU TWO DO YOUR WORK PERFECTLY!!
HAKOGAKU
FAZOOOOSH
HOW-EVER!
YOU ARE BOTH EXCELLENT SPRINTERS!
YOU ARE STILL ONLY ORDINARY SPRINT-ERS!!
SQUEEZE
YOU ARE SUBLIME!!

...TO 300 METERS!!
ZOOM
FWOOM
WE'RE DOWN...

THOOM

KI 5

BAM!!

DAMN IT!!

HE'S AHEAD!!

THE FIRST CHECK-POINT... WILL GO TO ME!!

VICTORY IS MINE...

...IS A MATCH FOR US, POWER-WISE.

HFF!

HFF!

THIS GUY...

HFF!

HFF!

HFF!

HUFF!

HFF!

ZOOOSH

MEAN-ING...

IT MEANS ...

ZOOSH

...WHAT IT COMES DOWN TO...

HAAH ...

HAA ...

HAAH ...

URGH ...

DAMN ...

HFF!

HFF!

ZOOOSH

NO.

HE'S JUST A SKOSH ABOVE US!!

...IS OUR EMOTIONS!!

HUFF!

HEFF!

ZOO.OOSH

WHAT !?

SHOULD ONE OF US BLOCK THE WIND FOR THE OTHER SO HE CAN SAVE HIS STRENGTH!?

WHAT !!?

OLD MAN!!

WHY SHOULD I COOPER-ATE WITH YOU!?

YOU'RE MY OPPONENT TOO!

YOU'RE TALKING CRAZY !!

'KAY, THEN ...

IN SHORT ...

WOOSH

MY BAD...JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT WAS HOW YOU FELT!!

KEH KEH KEH! OF... COURSE !!

...WE'VE JUST GOTTA STOP THAT GUY!!

SOHOKU

ZOOSH

OOOOXY...

...GENNGH!!

HUP!

WOOSH

THOOM

YOUR EMO-TIONS ...

...YOU SAY?

SPRINTERS ARE OFTEN...

IF I AM A LONG, SHARP, WELL-POLISHED SPEAR...

...COMPARED TO SPEARS .....!!

THE FIRST TO REACH OUR GOAL...

FLIMSY AND DULL.

...YOU TWO WOULD BE SHORT, DIRTY SPEARS.

HUFF. HUFF.

HUFF. HUFF.

I'LL SAY...

CAN'T SAY...I AGREE... WITH YOUR META-PHOR THERE.

ZOOOOSH

ZIIIP

...WILL CERTAINLY BE ME, SADLY FOR YOU!!

AND I'D BE... A HEAVY SPEAR... THAT CAN PIERCE PLATE ARMOR...!!

HUFF.

HUFF!

HUFF!

I'D BE... A BRIGHT-RED...SUPER-FLASHY SPEAR... Y'KNOW!

HFF.

HFF!

HFF.

HFF!

HFF.

HUFF.

...AS FOR WHO'LL REACH OUR GOAL FIRST.....

HUFF.

AND ...

HFF.

HFF.

HEH HEH!

SHOKU

高校 競技部

高校 自転車部

IT'LL BE ME!!

IT'S GONNA BE ME!!

HUFF!

THAT GUY'S STILL... RIDIN' AHEAD OF US!!

HUFF.

HUFF!

DAMN IT...THIS GUY...!! EVEN AFTER I GAVE IT EVERYTHING I HAD...!!!

HFF!

HFF!

HFF!

RIDE.83 LOSS

ABS!!

200 OSH

ABS!!

ZOOOOSH

HAAAAR-RGHH!!

DAMN IT ALL!!

...GEN-NNGH!!

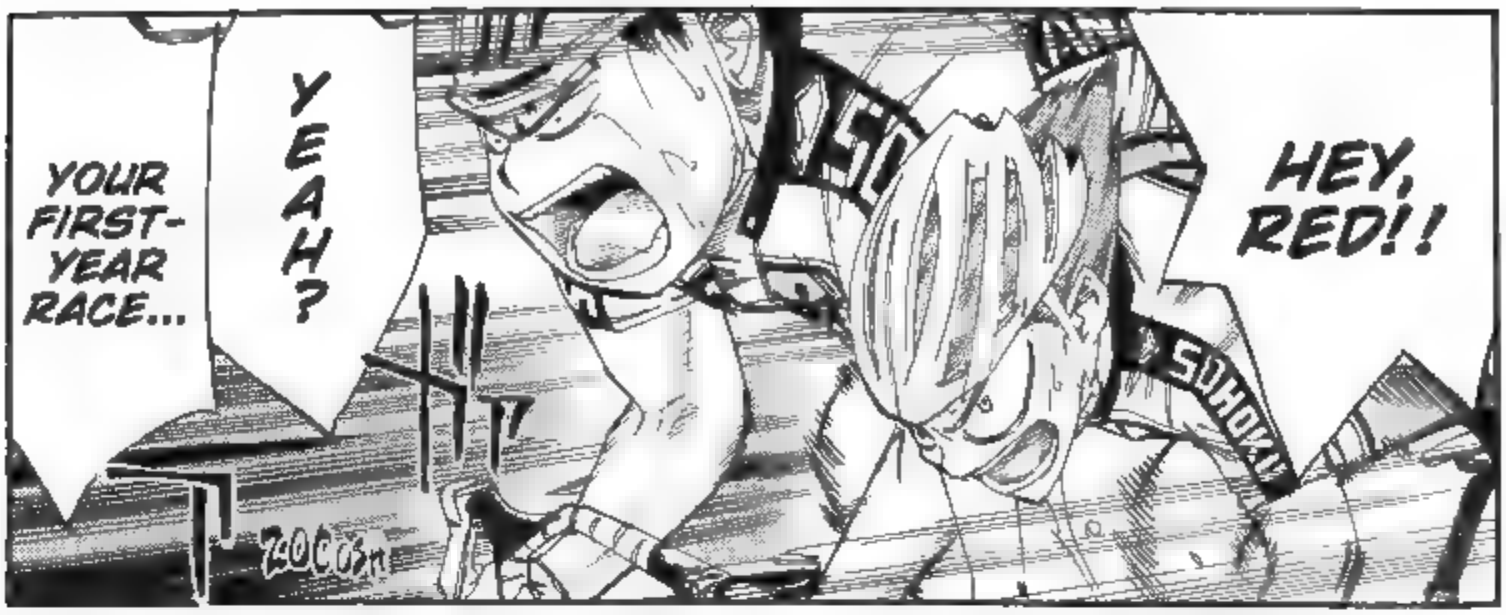
IT'S ONLY...

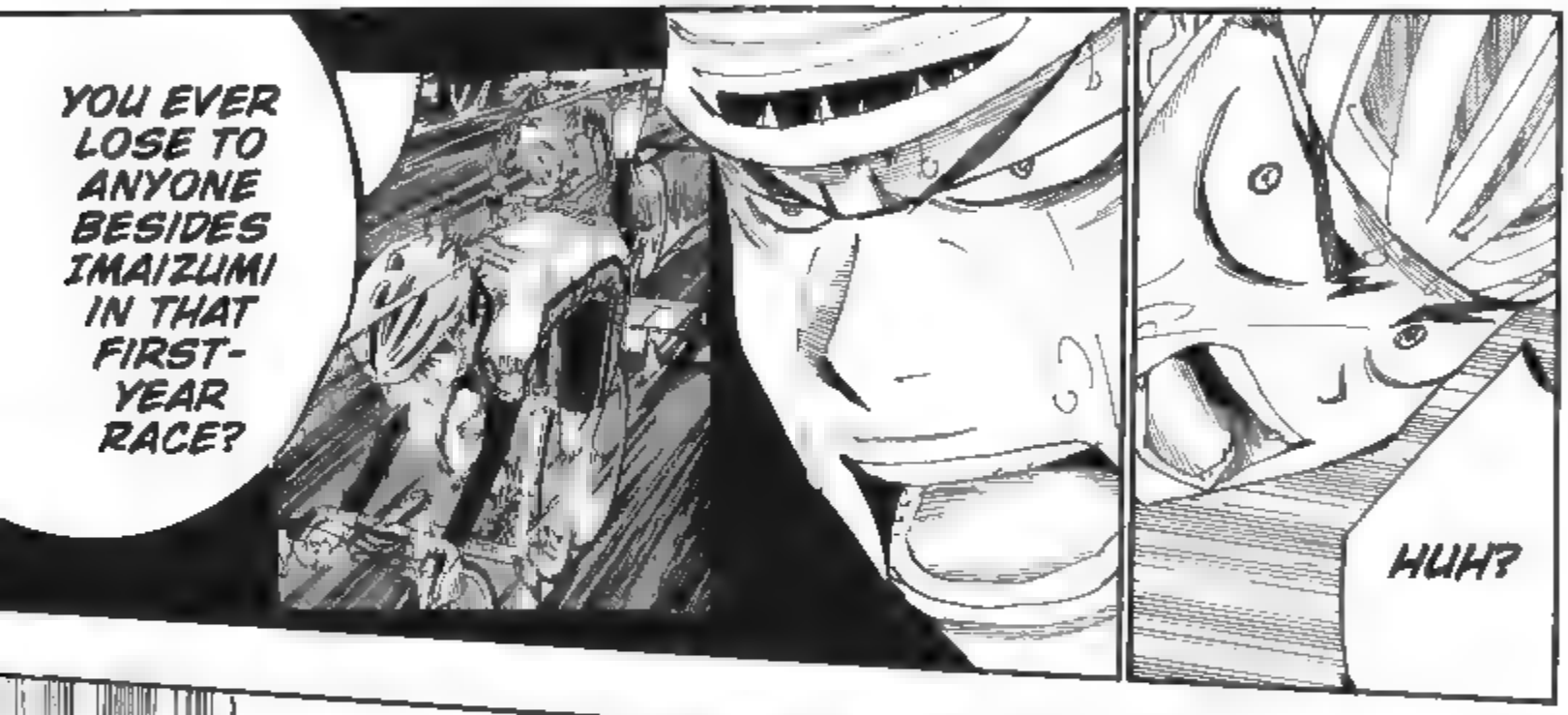
THE CHECK-POINT... ARRRGHH!!

OOO-OXY...

...270 METERS AHEAD!!

FWOOM


YOUR FIRST-YEAR RACE...
YEAH?
HEY, RED!!
SUHOKU


YOU EVER LOSE TO ANYONE BESIDES IMAIZUMI IN THAT FIRST-YEAR RACE?
HUH?

WOULDN'T YOU NORMALLY ASK HOW MANY TIMES I'D WON A RACE, AND HOW I DID IT—!!?
ZNAK
SUHOKU
NO!!
JUST ANSWER ME!!

DUH!

I AIN'T TALKIN'!! NO WAY!!
IT'S RELEVANT TO THIS!!
WHAT THE—!? WHY'RE YOU POKIN' AT A SORE SPOT AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
JUST AN-SWER ME!!

ASKIN' PEOPLE TO TALK ABOUT THEIR LOSSES AND THEN SMIRKIN' AT THEM!!
WHAT THE—!? YOU'VE GOT A NASTY STREAK, OLD MAN!!
HOW 'BOUT YOU THEN, OLD MAN!?
DID YOU WIN YOUR FIRST-YEAR RACE!?
ACTUALLY, WAS THERE EVER REALLY A TIME WHEN YOU WERE A FIRST-YEAR!?
GAH-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!!
ZOOM
I'VE...ALWAYS BEEN SMALLER THAN MOST PEOPLE.
SO I'VE HAD TO...WORK HARDER THAN MOST.
I...
ZOOOSH
...HAVE.
JUST ANSWER THE QUES-TION!!

RIDE.83 LOSS

TWO YEARS AGO

Club Withdrawal Request

Year, Class	Name	Stamp
Year 1, Class 3	Jin Tadokoro	

SO THIS IS WHY YOU WANTED TO SPEAK WITH US?

.....

YES.

HAVE YOU STARTED TO HATE BICYCLING?

WHY, TADOKORO-KUN?

WHY NOT STICK WITH IT A LITTLE LONGER?

NO...

I'VE ALREADY DECIDED.

CRACK

TOOJI KANZAKI THIRD-YEAR CAPTAIN (AT THE TIME)

NO NEED TO LOOK SO COLD.

IN THE FIRST-YEAR RACE UP MT. MINEGAYAMA...

...I CAME IN LAST.

I'VE BEEN CYCLING SINCE MIDDLE SCHOOL, BUT I EVEN LOST TO SHIMIZU, WHO'S A COMPLETE BEGINNER.

THEN AT TRAINING CAMP, I HAD TO DROP OUT DURING DAY TWO... THAT'S WHY.

NOTHING IS ALL FUN AND GAMES, YOU KNOW?

IT'S... NOT THAT. BUT...

.....

I...

...WANT TO WIN.

.....I CAN'T CLIMB...

I'M BIG-BONED AND MY BODY'S TOO BIG. SO I CAN'T CLIMB WELL. AND IF I CAN'T CLIMB WELL, I CAN'T WIN RACES.

I'VE ALREADY TRIED MY ABSOLUTE HARDEST!

I EVEN TRIED TO LOSE WEIGHT, BUT THAT JUST DROPPED MY STAMINA WITHOUT CHANGING MY WEIGHT AT ALL!

I'VE ALREADY GIVEN IT EVERY-THING I'VE GOT! SO JUST—

TADO-KORO!!

IF YOU'RE FINE WITH LOSING, THEN QUIT.

SOHOKU

IF YOU WANNA WIN, STAY.

KANZAKI... SAN...

DECIDING TO QUIT BECAUSE YOU WANT TO WIN DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!!

ZOOOOSH

DOMINATE THE FIELD!!

YOUR SPECIALTY IS SPRINTING, RIGHT? SO TAKE IT TO THE LIMIT.

IF YOU CAN MASTER A DIFFERENT AREA, THEN YOU'RE FINE BEING LOUSY AT CLIMBING!!

ZOOOOSH

GIMME MORE!! MORE!! PEDAL! PEDAL! PEDAL!!

OKU

HFF! HFF!

HAAH! HAAH!

TADOKORO!!

I'M AT MY LIMIT!!

I—

NO MORE!!

IT'S YOUR SPIRIT THAT DECIDES.

YOUR HEART. NO MATTER WHO YOU'RE RACING...

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DECIDES YOUR LIMIT.

...DON'T LET YOUR HEART LOSE TO THEIRS.

BAM

BAM

BAM

BAM

YES, SIR !!

PEDAL, TADO-KORO!!

FWOOM

PULL! PULL! PULL! PULL!!

ALL RIGHT!!

NOW PULL!!

THEN LEAN ALL YOUR WEIGHT FORWARD...

PULL THOSE HANDLEBARS 'TIL YOUR FRONT WHEEL RISES OFF THE ROAD!!

VEER

VEER

...SO THAT IT STAYS ON THE ROAD!!

YES, SIR!

WOBBLE

C'MON !!

YEEAH!!

MOVIN' FAST, MOVIN' FAST, MOVIN' FAST!

ZOOOSH

LOOKIN' GOOD, LOOKIN' GOOD, LOOKIN' GOOD!

...THEY NEED GUTS! AND HE'S GOT 'EM.

IT'S BETTER FOR THEM TO TAKE A STRAIGHT-FORWARD APPROACH.

SPRINTERS ARE SIMPLE BEINGS.

HA! HA! HA! IT SEEMS...

CRUNCH

AH! AND ALSO...

...THE BOY HAS MADE HIS BREAK-THROUGH!!

Y'KNOW, I THINK HE WILL. I'LL TRAIN HIM.

I'LL PASS MY HOPES ON TO HIM— JUST KIDDING! ♪

DO YOU THINK HE'LL BECOME A GOOD SPRINTER, THEN?

I DON'T KNOW. GUESS IT DEPENDS ON HOW HARD HE TRAINS.....

BECAUSE A SPRINTER WHO'S NEVER TASTED DEFEAT...

...THAT'LL CHANGE THE WAY HE SEES EVERYTHING.

HE'LL PROBABLY LOSE HIS NEXT RACE TOO.

AND PLENTY MORE IN THE FUTURE.

SO I'LL HAVE HIM PUSH FOR THE FINISH LINE EVEN IF HE GETS DRENCHED AND DIRTY, OR EVEN COLLAPSES.

BUT ONCE YOU DIGEST A LOSS, IT CAN PROPEL YOU FORWARD TOO..... AND THEN...

...ONCE HE GAINS HIS FIRST VICTORY...

CRUNCH

I WON'T LOSE, YA HEAR?
IZU-MIDA ...
I WON'T LOSE.
HAAH!
HAAH!
ABS! ABS! ABS! ABS!
HAAH!
HAAH!
HUFF!
BEING DIRTY ...
HELL YEAH, I AM!
YOU SAID I WAS A DIRTY SPEAR...
...MEANS I'VE SEEN REAL BATTLE !!
SOHOKU
...CAN NEVER BECOME TRULY STRONG!!

...ARE FAST!!
KANAGAWA
KANAGAWA
FWOOOOM

GOTCHA, TADOKORO-SAN!!
LET'S GO, NARUKO!! PULL!! PULL THOSE HANDLE-BARS!!
WE...
PULL! PULL! PULL! PULL!!

200000M

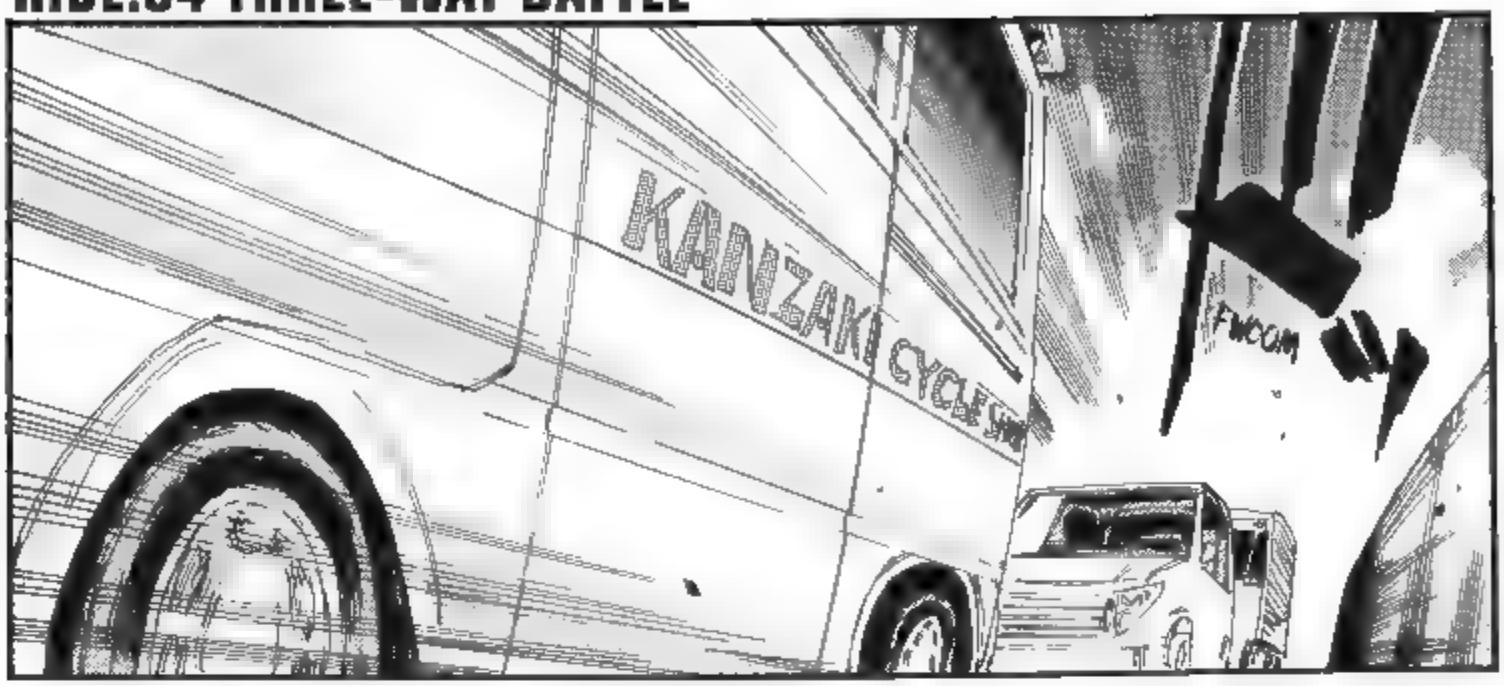
NOW...? AT THE 250M MARK!?

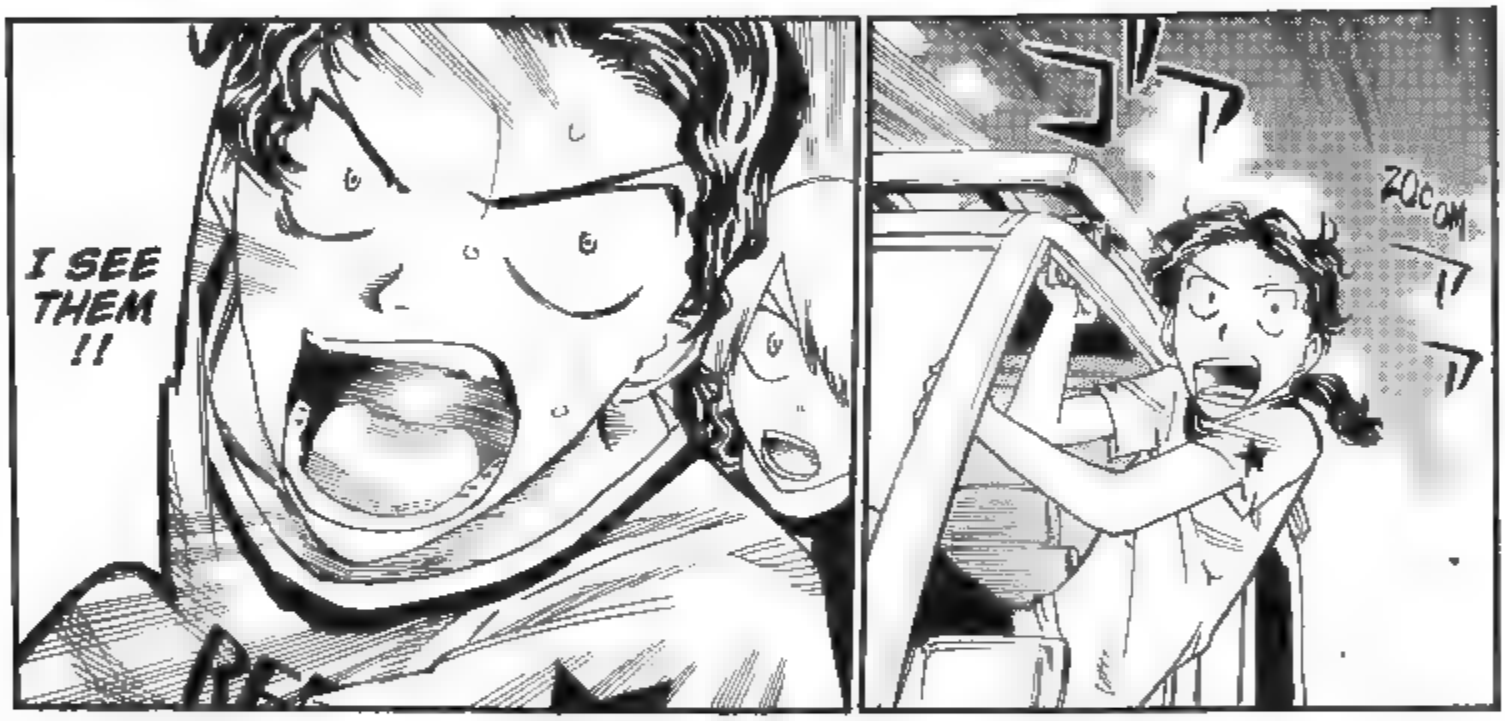
!!!
.....!?

MR. "INVIN-CIBLE"!!

C'MON NOW... RACE LIKE YOUR LIFE DE-PENDS ON IT!!

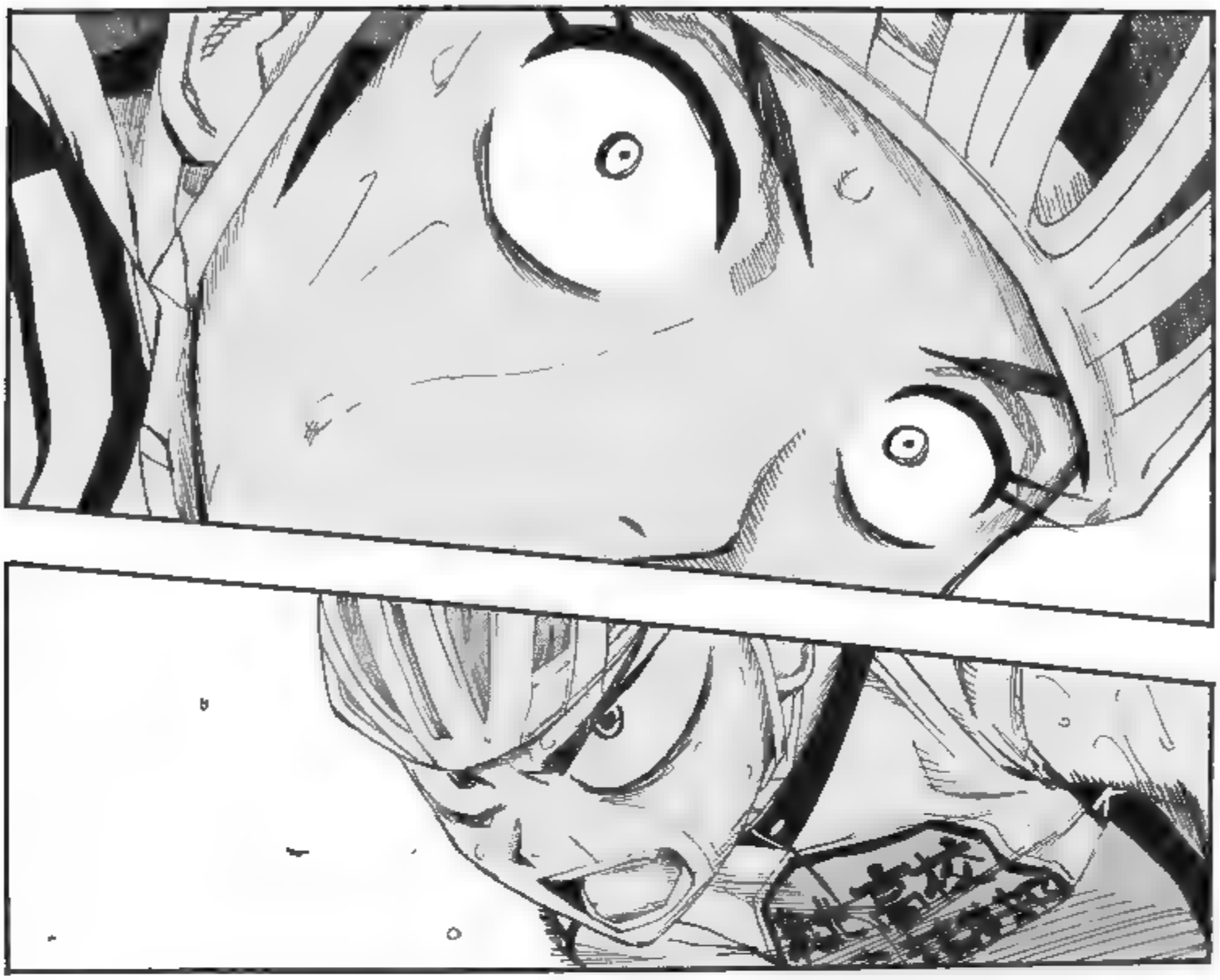
RIDE.84 THREE-WAY BATTLE

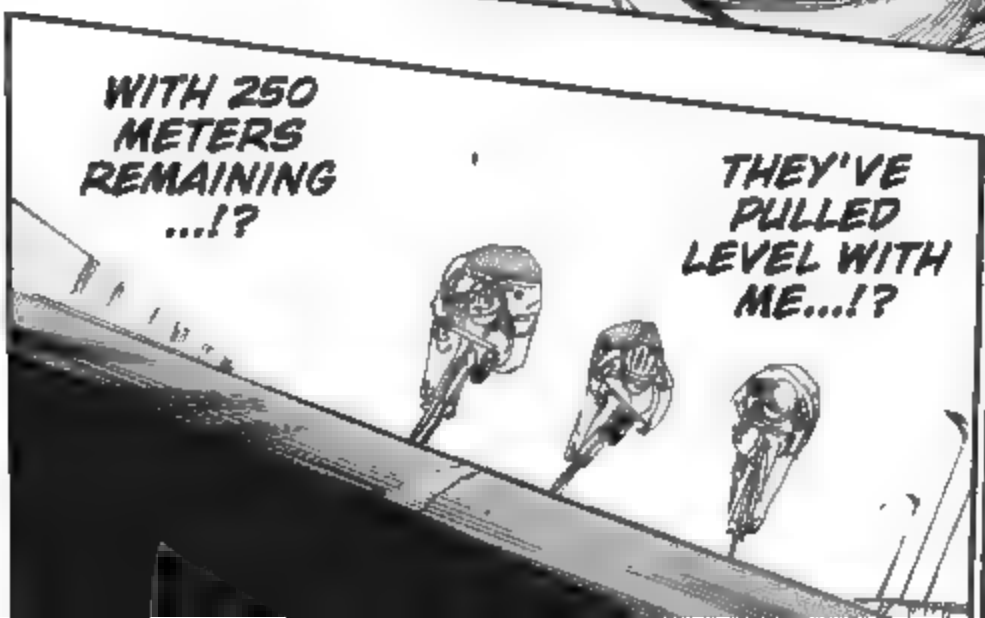




THERE ARE THREE RIDERS IN THE LEAD PACK...
FWOOM
YEAH !!
WE MADE IT JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME!! THEY HAVEN'T REACHED THE CHECKPOINT YET!!
I SEE THEM UP AHEAD, KANZAKI-SAN!!
THEY'RE IN THE NEXT LANE!
OOH!

RIDE.84 THREE-WAY BATTLE
2000M
HAKONE ACAD-EMY'S NUMBER FIVE...
...AND SOHOKU'S OWN TADOKORO-SAN AND NARUKO!!
THEY'RE NECK-AND-NECK! LOOK!
WHOA!!
SO FAST!!
JUST 250 ME-TERS LEFT!!
TADOKORO!!
NARU-KO-KUN!!
YOU CAN DO IT!!
SENPAI!!




WITH 250 METERS REMAINING ...!?
THEY'VE PULLED LEVEL WITH ME...!?

LEAN

I AM A LONG, POLISHED SPEAR...WHILE THEY ARE SHORT, DIRTY ONES.

THEY'RE BOTH COMPLETELY WORN OUT.

ARE THEY JUST HANGING ON OUT OF STUBBORNNESS ...?

...WHICH OF US WILL CROSS THE FINISH LINE FIRST!!

EVEN A CHILD COULD FIGURE OUT...

THEY MUST BE THE TYPES WHO'D SAY, THAT!!

"YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN."

FWOOM

I SEE... "TO THE BITTER END," IS IT?

DESPITE THAT, THEY'RE HANGING ON TO ME AGAIN?

DURING A RACE'S SPRINT STAGE...

ABS!!

...THE FINAL 250 METERS ARE WHERE THE REAL SPRINT BATTLE BEGINS!!

YOUR COMPETITOR'S MOVEMENTS... THE CONDITION OF THE ROAD...THE DIRECTION OF THE WIND...YOU MUST BE ABLE TO MOVE BASED ON SPLIT-SECOND DECISIONS FACTORING IN ALL OF THOSE THINGS.

IT'S A STRATEGIC BATTLE FOUGHT IN A SPAN OF SECONDS!!

CAN YOU REALLY DO THAT WITH SUCH WORN-OUT BODIES!!?

WHAT'S MORE—

IN THOSE FEW SECONDS, THE THINGS THAT TAKE YOU ACROSS A FINISH LINE FASTER THAN THE REST ARE—

WILL.

INSTINCT.

EXPERIENCE.

...AREN'T CAPABLE OF ACHIEVING ANY OF THAT!!

YOU TWO...

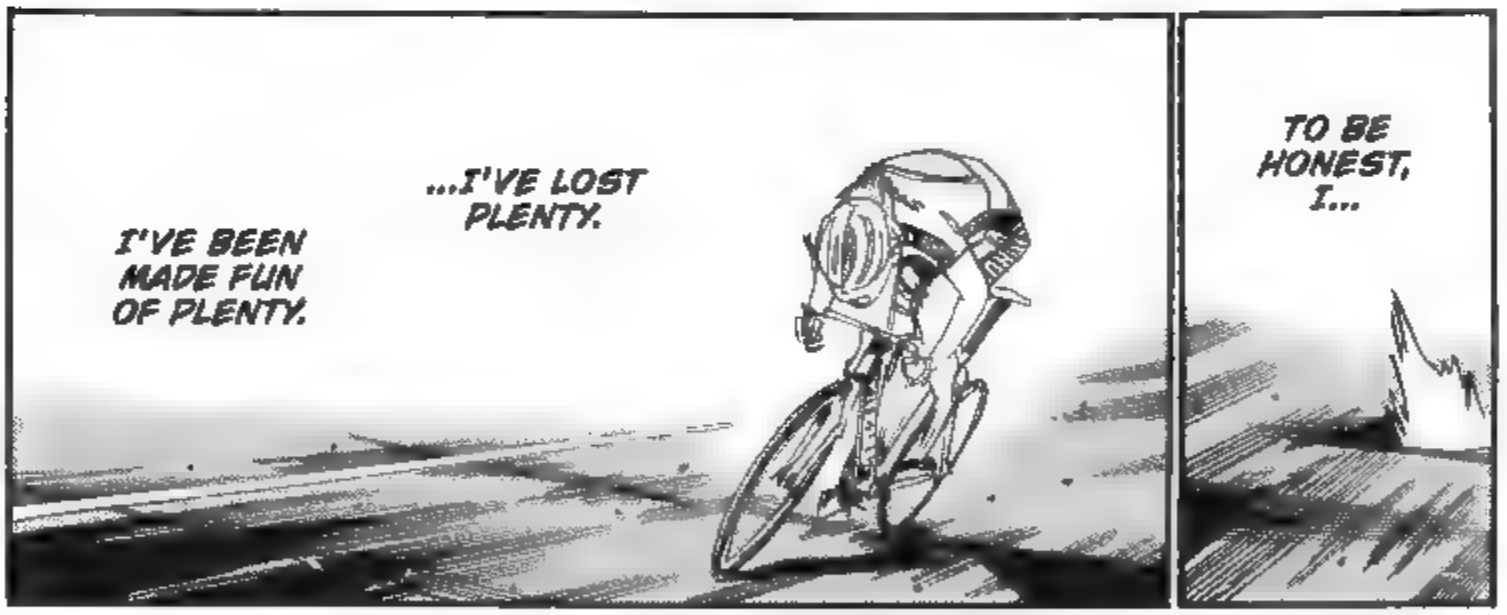
ONLY SOMEONE WHO POSSESSES ALL OF THOSE THINGS CAN WIN!!

AND PHYSICAL PERFECTION.

THOOM

ZOOOSH

THOOM
SOHOKU
SOHOKU


I'VE BEEN MADE FUN OF PLENTY.
...I'VE LOST PLENTY.
TO BE HONEST, I...

SEI-CHAN, DON'T SAY THAT! AH-HA-HA!
AH-HA-HA!
YOU'RE NOT CUT OUT FOR CYCLIN'. YOU'RE TOO SMALL.
I HEARD YOU LOST AGAIN, SHOUKICHI ?
OH MAN! YOU NEVER GET TALLER, DO YA?
ARE YA DRINKIN' YOUR MILK
SIGN: ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DIVISION

HAVE YOUR MOMMY BUY YOU A SMALLER BIKE—

TENG TENG

OH? ARE YOU A KINDERGARTENER, HON? ISN'T THAT BICYCLE TOO BIG FOR YOU?

GLARE

AND I'M IN THIRD GRADE, DUMMY-HEAD!!

THIS IS THE SMALLEST SIZE THEY HAD!

HE'S TINY!

HUH?

DON'T CALL ME TINY!!

I SWORE I WOULD BECOME STRONG...

...AND THE FASTEST.

THAT'S WHY I MADE AN OATH.

SOH

I DID EVERYTHING I POSSIBLY COULD TO BECOME A WINNER.

THAT'S AMAZING...

SERIOUSLY! I WONDER HOW I KEEP WINNING EVEN THOUGH I NEVER TRAIN OR ANYTHING.

BUILDING: ELEMENTARY DIVISION

BUT IT DIDN'T PAY OFF.

OUT OF 102 RIDERS... I CAME IN 83RD..

CARTON: MILK

NO WAY!! THAT DAY I WAS... I WAS OUT FISHIN'!!

NO—

IT TOOK ME FIVE WHOLE YEARS TO TASTE VICTORY FOR THE FIRST TIME—

THESE? OH... IT'S 'COS A FISH WENT CRAZY ON ME!

BUT AREN'T THOSE SCRATCHES FROM WHEN YOU CRASHED YOUR BIKE?

IS IT TRUE YOU COMPETED IN THAT BICYCLE RACE THAT HAPPENED SOUTH OF HERE?

. ....

HEY, NARUKO-KUN!

THOOM

SOHOKU

SOHOKU

BEING DIRTY MEANS ...

...I'VE SEEN REAL BATTLE!

IS THAT...

...HOW THE DOTS CONNECT?

...HE ASKED?

HAVE YOU EVER LOST BEFORE ...

OLD MAN ...

...BUT MAYBE, IT'S REALLY... THE WAY YOU SAY IT IS.

UNTIL NOW...

...I'VE PRETENDED THAT I'D NEVER KNOWN "DEFEAT"...

...OLD MAN?

SOHOKU

DOES THAT MEAN I'VE "SEEN REAL BATTLE"...

...I'VE SEEN A CRAP-LOAD OF REAL BATTLES!!

SORRY. THE TRUTH IS...

THAT'S HOW IT SHOULD BE!!

NOW, LET'S GO!! DON'T LET HIS EMOTIONS BEAT YOURS!!
OF COURSE NOT!!

FWOOM

C'MON, C'MON, C'MON !!

SHOOM

HEAARRGH!!

"EMOTIONS"?

I'LL TAKE THOSE EMOTIONS...

...AND TEAR THEM TO SHREDS!!

ABS! ABS! ABS! ABS! ABS!!

ZOOM

150 METERS TO GO!!

SUDDEN

SUDDEN

SUDDEN

THOOM
SOHOKU
SOHOKU
SOHOKU

!!
THEY CAUGHT UP..... AGAIN!?

THEY'RE STILL EVEN!!

THEY'RE NECK-AND-NECK!!

THOSE TWO ARE AMAZ-ING!!

THEY GOT LEFT BEHIND AND MANAGED TO CATCH BACK UP AGAIN!

TADO-KORO-SAN!!

GOOOOO!!

IT'S ALL ABOUT WHAT COMES NEXT!

...TAKING THE FIRST CHECK-POINT...!!

WE MAY ACTUALLY HAVE A SHOT AT THIS! OUR VERY OWN SOHOKU...

IT'S 80 METERS AHEAD!!

FWOOOM

I CAN SEE THE CHECK-POINT!!

ROCK

FWOOOSH

GUST

BLAST AHEAD, TADOKORO-SAN!!

172
KANZAKI
SOHOKU
SOHOKU
KANZAKI
SOHOKU
SOHOKU
PINARELLO
KANAGAWA
HAKODATE
GAKU

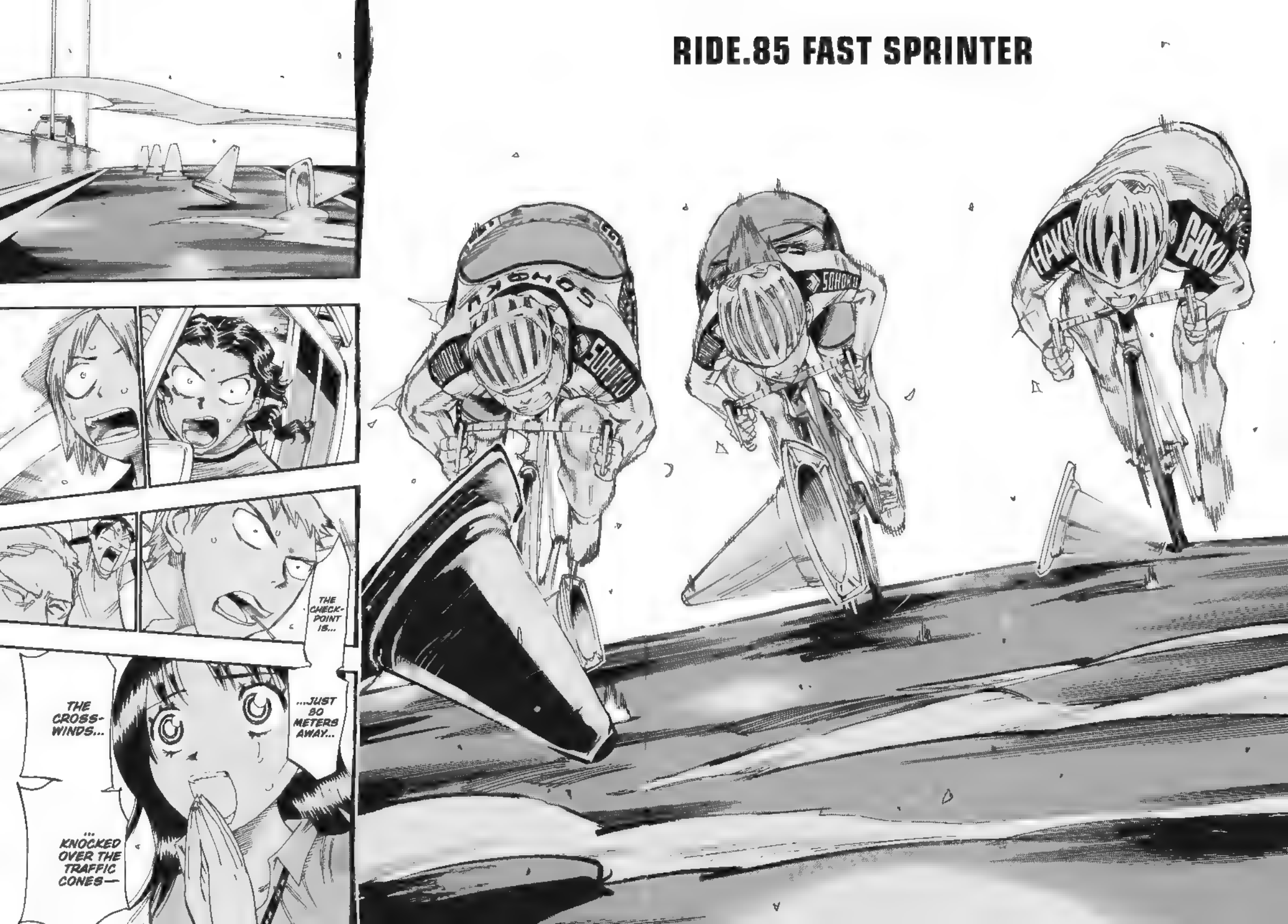
THROB

——!!

RED

BOOM
KH
ZOOOSH

RIDE.85 FAST SPRINTER



THUD

I'LL
FALL.

IF I WERE TO RIDE INTO THAT RIGHT NOW...

...THERE'S NO DOUBT.

SPRINTING FOR THE FINISH LINE, I MUST BE GOING ABOUT 50KM/H...

I'LL BE THROWN OFF MY BIKE...

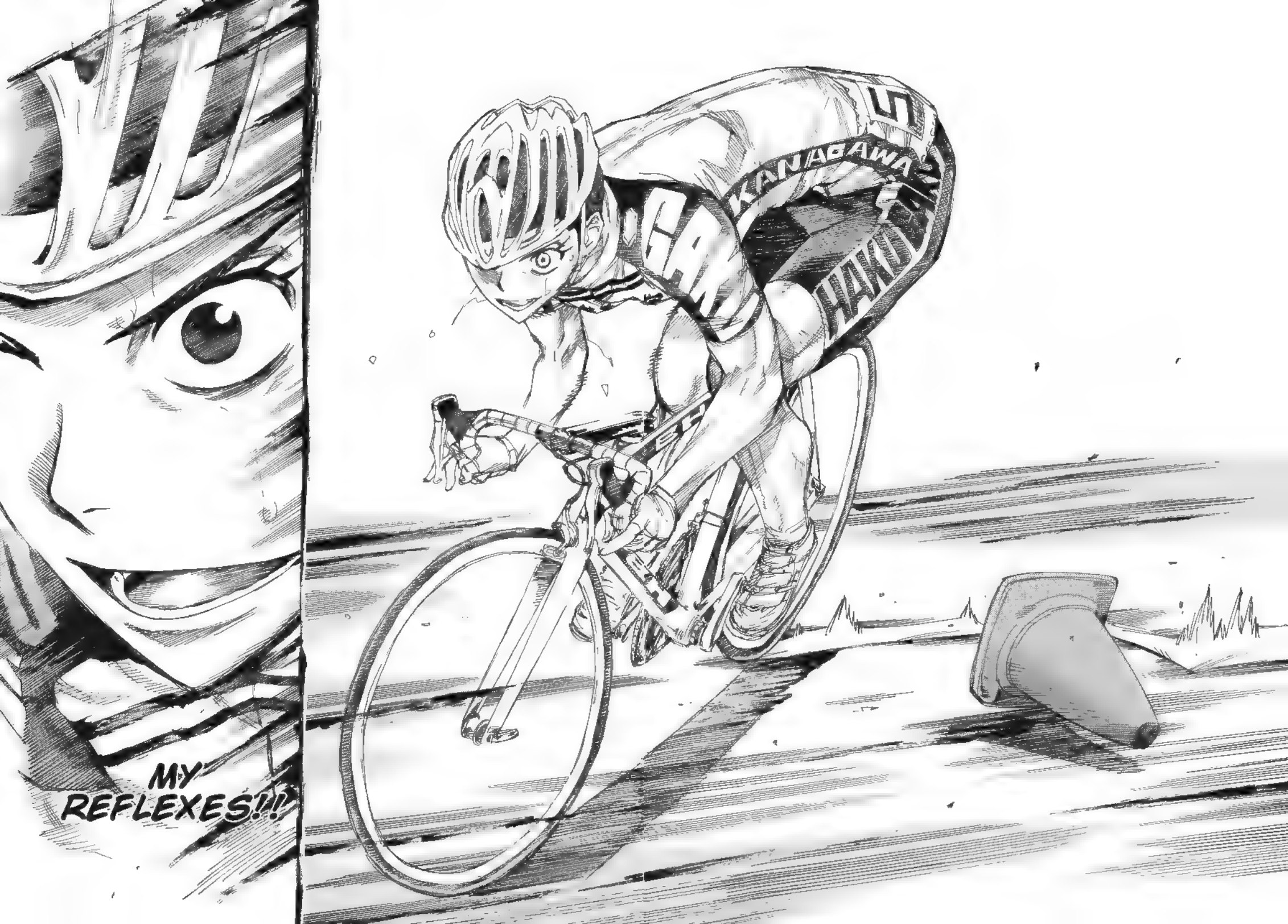
SHAK

CLENCH

THRUP

...FOR SURE!!

FWOOM


MY REFLEXES!!!
KANAGAWA
HAKO

THANK YOU, ANDY AND FRÄNK!!

THEY RESPONDED BRILLIANTLY!!

BRILLIANT...!!

I REALLY COULD RIDE DOWN A LINE ONLY MILLIMETERS WIDE! I TRULY BELIEVE THAT...

...OF MY CURRENT PHYSICAL CONDITION!!

I PULLED IT OFF JUST THE WAY I IMAGINED IT!! I WASN'T OFF BY EVEN A MILLIMETER!!

SPRINTING RACES ARE WON BY HUNDREDTHS OF A SECOND.

JUST SEVENTY METERS SHY OF THE CHECKPOINT!!

ANY HARD BRAKING OR DECELERATION WOULD'VE BEEN FATAL AT THIS POINT!!

...AND EVADED THE CONE!!

I HAD NEARLY NO LOSS OF CONTROL AT ALL...

YOU! WERE PERFECT!!

ANDY! FRANK! YOU DID YOUR WORK PERFECTLY!!

FWOOM

...FOR YOU, SOHOKU!!

...AAA-ABS!!

BUT IT'S TOO BAD...

AAA...

172
SOHOKU
KANZ
SOHOKU
SOHOKU
PINARELLO
PINARELLO

...THE FASTEST!!
SOHOKU
OUTTA MY WAY!!
C'MON, C'MON, C'MON!!
HAAA-AARR-RGHH!!
I'M...
I'M...

AND YET, YOU—
THERE WERE CONES IN THE ROAD..... LEGITIMATE CRASHING HAZARDS, RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES...
...STRAIGHT THROUGH?
THEY RODE...
ZOOOOSH
SOHOKU
SOHOKU
SOHOKU

YOU RODE STRAIGHT THROUGH THEM!!!?

C'MONNNNN!!

HAAARGHH!!

...AND THEN JUST KEPT RIDING!!

AMAZING—! THE TWO OF THEM KNOCKED THE CONES AWAY...

NARUKO-KUN!!

TADO-KORO-SAN!! BRING IT HOME FOR US!!

TAKE THE FIRST CHECK-POINT!!

BAM

ZOOM

THEY'RE CROSSING IT—!!

ZIIIP
SOHOKU
SOHOKU
KAIZAKI
SOHOKU
YEAAAAAH!!
BA
SOHOKU
GAKU
BAM.

YEEEAAAHHH!!!

.....

BAM

ZOOSH

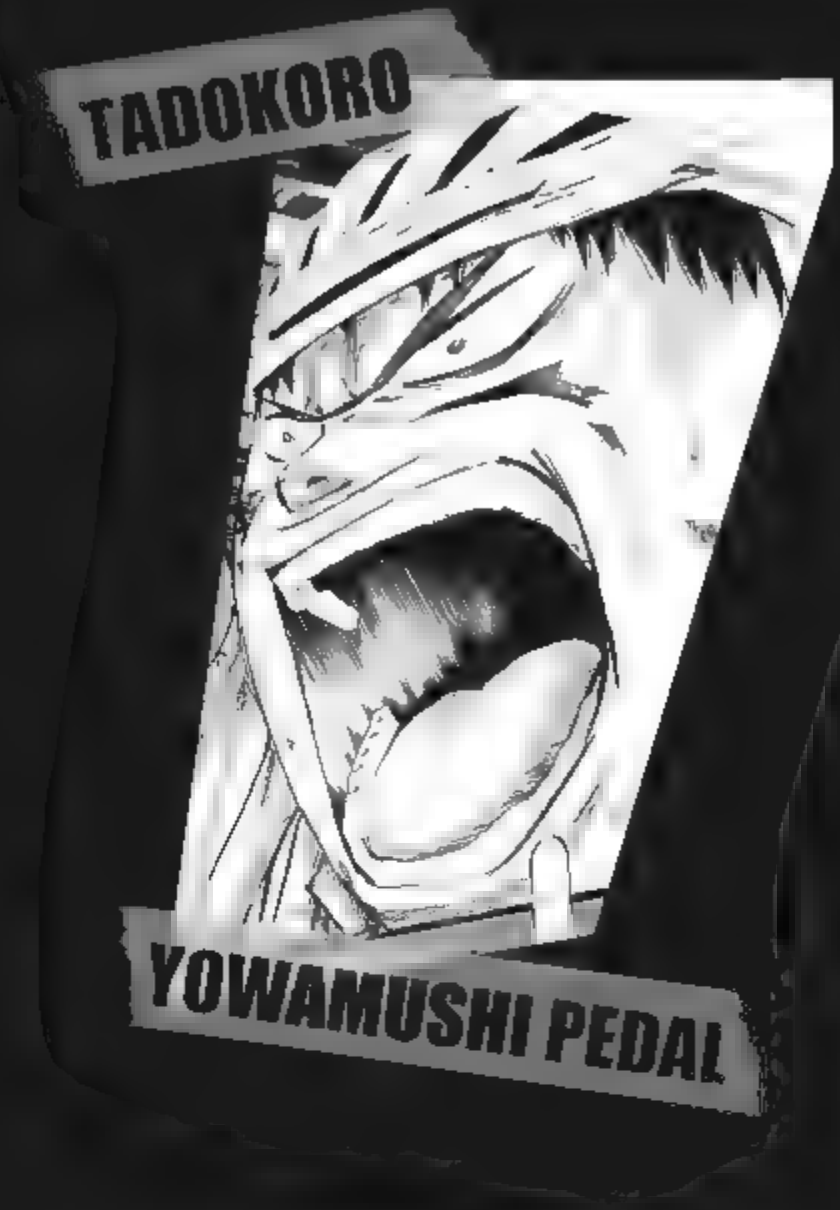
ZOOSH

YEAAAH!!

RIDE.86 A CHANGE OF ORDER

RIDE.86 A CHANGE OF ORDER

AYEAAA


TADOKORO
YOWAMUSHI PEDAL

YEAAAAAAAH!!

ZCOCOCSH

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

HAAH

HAAH

.....

HAAH!

HAAH

...

I LOST.....

ME, WHO HAD HONED HIMSELF TO PERFECTION...

First Checkpoint Rankings
Jin Tadokoro - Seihoku
1. 172 田所迅 2000 清隆北
Shoukichi Naruko - Seihoku
2. 174 鳴子章吉 062 清隆北
Touichirou Izumida - Hakone Academy
泉田塔一郎 2047 箱根学園
Yasuyuki Shibata - Kanazawa-Hisaki
柴田康之 石川

THERE'S A NARUKO ON THEIR TEAM...?

TADO-KORO AND NARUKO!

CHEER

SOHOKU FROM CHIBA!!

THE FIRST CHECK-POINT WENT TO SOHOKU!!

FIRST AND SECOND PLACE!?

WAIT, HE'S A FIRST-YEAR!?

WHOOOOAA!!

YO, FOR REAL!?

HAKONE ACAD-EMY'S IN THIRD PLACE!!

WHOOAA!!

.....!

WIPE

CHAAATTER

CHATTER

THEY'RE MOVING !!

THE TEAMS IN THAT LEAD PACK WILL THEN SWITCH OFF PULLING THE PELOTON.

...TO BECOME THE PACE-MAKERS OF THE RACE.

WITHIN THE PELOTON, THE ***STRONGER TEAMS*** GENERALLY MOVE TOWARD THE FRONT...

20 00 0/H

"MOVING" ...? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, SENPAI?

SO FAR, LAST YEAR'S OVERALL WINNER, HAKONE ACADEMY, HAS BEEN PULLING US ON THEIR OWN.

FWOOM

BUT AFTER THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST CHECKPOINT, THE RIDING ORDER WILL CHANGE!!

ZOOM

THERE'S A PRESTIGE FACTOR TOO.

JUST BEING A PART OF THE LEAD PACK IS SOMETHING TO TAKE PRIDE IN!!

...AND SURVEY THE COURSE AHEAD FOR ROAD CONDITIONS.

THEY GET TO SET THE PELOTON'S PACE...

YOU MUST BE POSITIONED IN THE LEAD PACK TO HAVE ANY HOPE OF WINNING.

FWOOM

SOHOKU

KANEAKI

ZOOOSH!

'SCUSE US.

WE'RE COMING THROUGH.

HAKOGAWA

THOOM

SKRUTCH

JOLT

ZOOSH

SOHOKU'S MOVED UP!!

ZHIIIP

WHOA!! THE REIGNING CHAMPS CLEARED THE WAY FOR THEM!!

IT WAS LIKE THE SEA PARTED FOR THEM...

WOW! AT LAST ...

HOW COOL!

HOW DOES IT FEEL, RIDING AT THE HEAD OF THE PACK IN THE INTER-HIGH...
...IMAIZUMI?
PULLING FOR EVERYONE CONSUMES STAMINA, BUT...
.....
...IT'S NOT A BAD FEELING.
IT'S ALWAYS QUIET RIDING IN FIRST PLACE.
IT'S NOW SOHOKU FROM CHIBA!!
HAKONE ACADEMY'S MOVED BACK!!
WHOOOH!
THOOM
...THE HEAD OF THE PACK HAS CHANGED!
SOHOKU
GAKU

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WAAAH!!

ZIIIIP

DONG

OUR OLD SPOT WAS A LOT LESS SCARY, WASN'T IT!!?

ACTUALLY, I GUESS ALL 120 RACERS ARE BEHIND US TOO..!!

H-HAKONE ACADEMY'S TEAM IS BEHIND US...

I-IT'S.. CRAZY, HUH? BEING IN THE FRONT..

WAH! MY HANDS ARE STARTING TO SHAKE...

BUT... DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT GOING BACK.

...WAS HARD-FOUGHT AND WON FOR US BY OUR SPRINTERS ...

...AFTER ALL.

THIS POSITION ...

I'M GUESS-ING..

DID YOU SEE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE RESULT TIMES EARLIER? IT WAS CLOSE

I'M RIGHT, AREN'T I?

TADO-KORO-CCHI...

—!! NARUKO-KUN...

...TO TAKE THAT CHECK-POINT.

...THAT THOSE TWO PUT THEIR PRIDE AS SPRINTERS ON THE LINE...

...AND PEDALED WITH EVERYTHING THEY HAD...

TADO-KORO-SAN!!
FWOOM
I TOOK THE CHECKPOINT ...!!
I SAW THE WHOLE THING!!
TADO-KORO-SAN!!
TADO-KORO-SAN!!
KINJOU!! MAKISHIMA!!
LICK
HAA!
HAA!
HAA...
HAA...
HAA...
HAA...
KANZAKI CS
自転車競技部

TESHIMA!!
AOYAGI!!

CLENCH
ﾘﾘﾘ

YOU TWO!
.....SO
YOU GOT
HERE,
HUH!!?

SORRY
!!

AW, C'MON,
THIS ISN'T
ENOUGH
TO CRY
OVER!

GAH
HA
HA
HA!

YOU TOOK THE WIN, TADOKORO!!

POINT

.....

THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING!!

CLUTCH

KANZAKI-SAN...!!

THE MOUNTAIN STAGE IS UP NEXT!!

THEN IT'S HAKONE...

YOU'LL BE OFF THE BYPASS SOON AND IN ODAWARA ITSELF!

WE'LL HEAD TO THE FEED ZONE AND SEE YOU THERE!

FWOOM

YEAH!

KEEP YOUR CHIN UP, NARUKO-KUN!!

HAA —!
HAA —
HAA —
ZOOM
I LOST...
...AGAIN...
DAMN IT...
.....
HEEEEEY!! STOP THAT CAR, MANAGER!!
ARRRRGH!! DAMN IT! I FORGOT I THREW MY BOTTLES AWAY!!
LEAVE ME A WATER BOTTLE!
さんまり
GONE
EMPTY
DAMN IT...!!

HERE.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO ACT LIKE IT'S FULL OF GERMS.

GEEZ.

I'LL GIVE YOU ONE OF MINE.

SINCE I'VE GOT TWO.

WH-WHAT THE HECK!?

YEAH, BUT OF COURSE, I HAD TO LET A THIRD-YEAR LIKE YOU WIN OUT OF RESPECT.

YOU RODE PRETTY DAMN HARD BACK THERE.

I BET YOUR THROAT'S PARCHED BY NOW...

THOSE CONES RUINED EVERY-THING.

HOW COULD THEY HAVE DEFEATED MY HONED BODY? ...MY CYCLING TODAY WAS PERFECT...

THE FEW SECONDS I LOST DODGING THAT CONE—NO, IT WASN'T EVEN A FULL SECOND. IT WAS JUST MILLI-SECONDS—

WHY DIDN'T YOU—?

MAY I ASK YOU ONE QUESTION?

SORRY... I JUST CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT.

自根学園

.....

SOHOKU.

NEVER MIND! I'M TAKING THAT BACK!

JEEZ! I'VE NEVER HAD A LESS LOVABLE UNDER-CLASSMAN!

YOU ALREADY GAVE IT TO ME! NO TAKE-BACKS!!

GIVE IT!

I'M DRINKIN' IT ALL! THANKS FOR THE WATER!

GLUG GLUG

WHY, YOU LITTLE —

...TRY TO AVOID THE CONES WHEN THE WIND BLEW THEM AT US?

WHY DIDN'T YOU...

.....

.....

IT WAS BECAUSE—

!! BUT YOU COULD HAVE CRASHED!

IF YOU'D RIDDEN OVER THEM...

YOU WERE LUCKY THEY FLEW UPWARD.

LOSE TI—

...I DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE TIME.

THAT'S WHY.

YA KNOW?

WORRY ABOUT THAT WHEN IT HAPPENS.

...YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN THROWN FROM YOUR BIKES!

YA KNOW?

IZUMIDA.

THEN WHY —!?

YOU SEE...

BUT HE HAS A POINT. WE COULD'VE GOTTEN HURT PRETTY BAD IF WE'D FALLEN BACK THERE.

TRUE.

I FEEL PRECISELY THE SAME—

...FROM THE START SIGNAL RIGHT TO THE FINISH LINE, THERE'S A SIMPLE RULE EVERYONE FOLLOWS—RACE FOR THE TOP SPOT. AS FOR ME...

...I JUST WANNA RIDE THE FASTEST.

THAT'S WHY...

THERE'S NO SET METHOD FOR SECURING A WIN.

—!!

BUT UNFORTUNATELY, THERE ARE NO RULES TO BEING "FASTEST."

...I SEEK OUT VICTORY WITH ALL MY BODY AND SOUL!!

WHETHER I HAVE TO EAT DIRT OR CHEW ON SAND...

...NO MATTER WHAT SITUATION I'M IN, I'M ALWAYS SEARCHING FOR VICTORY.

...IS SOME-THING I LEARNED ...

...AFTER COUNTLESS VICTORIES AND DEFEATS!!

THAT...

VICTORY DOESN'T JUST FALL IN YOUR LAP.

SOHOKU

172

172

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HOKU

BUT WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT "TRAINING ONLY FOR THE INTER-HIGH"...

NATURALLY, YOU DID WELL IN THE FEW KANTO-AREA RACES YOU ENTERED AS A WARM-UP FOR THIS.

BUT AS A RESULT...

THERE'S NO DOUBT, YOU'RE FAST. OVER-WHELMINGLY FAST.

HONESTLY, YOU MADE ME THINK MULTIPLE TIMES TODAY THAT I COULDN'T WIN.

YOU SAID YOU'VE TRAINED YOURSELF HARD.

.....

IZUMI-DA...

.....

FWOOM

YOU SPENT TOO MUCH TIME JUST POLISHING YOUR "RAZOR-POINTED SPEAR."

...YOU HAVEN'T EXPERIENCED NEARLY ENOUGH VICTORIES AND DEFEATS!!

AS YOU SAID, I OVERWHELMED YOU BOTH! MY LOSS HERE RESULTED ONLY BECAUSE YOU TWO HAPPENED TO DECIDE NOT TO DODGE THE CONES!

MY ANDY— I MEAN, MY BODY HAS BEEN HONED TO PERFECTION! MY CYCLING IS FLAWLESS!

IF YOU'RE GOING TO SAY ALL THAT, ALLOW ME TO DEFEND MYSELF!

THAT'S NOT EXACTLY TRUE.

"JUST BY CHANCE," YOU SAY...

IT WAS ALL JUST BY CHANCE!!

...AND FLEW RIGHT AT US, WHAT WENT THROUGH YOUR MIND?

WHEN THOSE CONES BLEW OVER...

CLASP

AND ACTUALLY— THE SAME GOES FOR RED HERE TOO...

GRR.

I'LL FALL.

!?

BUT AS FOR ME—

SOMETHING LIKE, "DANGER— I'LL FALL," I BET?

WE THOUGHT, "I THINK I CAN DO THIS" —!!

ABS...

SO THAT'S IT...!

I LOST BECAUSE...

...I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH EXPERI-ENCE.

ANDY... FRANK... I'M SORRY.

...AND REST WELL.
KAWAGAWA
HAKODATE
...TAKE A LITTLE TIME NOW...
FLAP
YOU TWO DID YOUR WORK FLAWLESSLY.

KANA!

SKID

SKID

BRAKE

YEP.

'COS WE'LL BE ENTERING THE MOUNTAINS SOON.

!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

THE TOP SPRINTERS WHO RODE AHEAD ARE COMING BACK NOW...

BUT JUST KNOW THAT YOU WON'T HAVE TIME TO SWAP WAR STORIES WHEN THEY GET BACK.

HUH?

NARUKO-KUN'S COMING BACK!? AND TADOKORO-SAN TOO?

YEP, BEFORE WE ENTER THE MOUNTAINS.

THAT'S GREAT!

THE SPRINTERS HAVE DONE THEIR JOB.

SO THEY'RE FALLING BACK TO THE PELOTON TO REST THEIR LEGS.

WE SHOULD BE CATCHING UP TO TADOKOROCCHI AND NARUKO PRETTY SOON TOO.

I TOLD YOU, WE'RE ENTERING THE MOUNTAINS ...

ヒュオオオオ
FWOOOOSH

FWOOM

THAT'S WHERE WE, THE CLIMBERS, ARE GONNA DO OUR WORK!!

BA BUMP

THOOM

ZIIIP

LEAN

SNAP

IT'S ABOUT TIME...

SMACK

BUZZ

THOOM

...THAT I STARTED WORKING UP A SWEAT TOO.

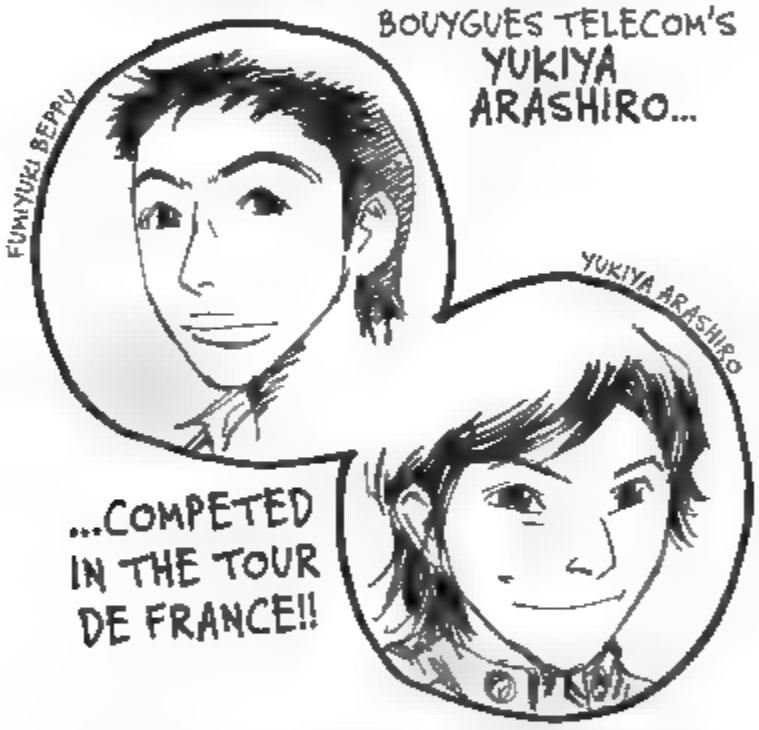
FLOP

TO BE CONTINUED IN YOWAMUSHI PEDAL VOLUME 6

ABOUT THE 2009 TOUR DE FRANCE

THE FIRST THING THAT COMES TO MIND WHEN SOMEONE SAYS "BICYCLE RACE" IS PROBABLY THE TOUR DE FRANCE. I'M SURE ALL OF YOU HAVE HEARD THE NAME, RIGHT? IN JAPANESE, WE PRONOUNCE IT "TSUURU," BUT IN ENGLISH, IT WOULD BE THE WORD "TOUR," AS IN "A JOURNEY." BUT TO CUT TO THE CHASE, IT'S BASICALLY A CIRCUIT AROUND FRANCE COMPLETED ENTIRELY ON BICYCLE, AND HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR ABOUT A HUNDRED YEARS NOW. IT APPARENTLY STARTED OUT WITH THE IDEA OF "WHO CAN COMPLETE A BICYCLE TOUR AROUND FRANCE THE FASTEST?" AND IS NOW THE MOST BRUTAL AND FAMOUS SPORTING EVENT IN THE WORLD (AND JUST IMAGINE—A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, THEY DIDN'T HAVE THE BENEFIT OF SAG [SUPPORT AND GEAR] WAGONS TO SUPPLY MECHANICAL ASSISTANCE IF YOU BROKE DOWN, SO YOU WERE REALLY ON YOUR OWN OUT THERE!) (INCIDENTALLY, BICYCLES BACK THEN DIDN'T HAVE GEAR SHIFTING CAPABILITIES YET...YIKES!)

THAT'S THE KIND OF RICHLY HISTORIED SPORT CYCLING IS. THE TOUR DE FRANCE IS STILL EXTREMELY POPULAR, AND EVEN IF YOU'VE TRAINED PRETTY HARD, YOU CAN'T JUST GO AND ENTER IT IN THE ENTIRE WORLD, ONLY TWENTY TEAMS OF NINE PEOPLE + A FEW WILDCARD TEAMS—A TOTAL OF JUST 200 PEOPLE CAN PARTICIPATE EACH YEAR! IT'S AN EVENT PACKED FULL OF THE TOP CYCLISTS IN THE WORLD. A RACE ANY PROFESSIONAL CYCLIST WOULD YEARN TO ENTER AT LEAST ONCE IN THEIR LIVES!!



SIMPLY COMPETING IN THE TOUR IS DIFFICULT, AND MANY WONDERED IF THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO COMPLETE THE COURSE. DURING STAGE 2 (EACH DAY OF THE TOUR IS CALLED "STAGE" + THE DAY NUMBER), ARASHIRO-SAN ACTUALLY FINISHED IN 5TH PLACE!! IN STAGE 3 AND STAGE 19, BEPPU-SAN FINISHED IN 8TH AND 7TH PLACE, RESPECTIVELY AND IN THE FINAL STAGE, HE WAS AWARDED THE COMBATIVITY AWARD!! TALK ABOUT AN IMPRESSIVE SET OF RESULTS TO LEAVE BEHIND!!

FOR ME (AND ALL OF JAPAN), IT WAS THRILLING TO SEE JAPANESE ATHLETES PARTICIPATING IN AN EVENT LIKE THAT AND GETTING WRITTEN ABOUT IN EUROPEAN NEWSPAPERS, AND FEATURED ON EUROPEAN TV!! AND OF COURSE, BOTH BEPPU-SAN AND ARASHIRO-SAN COMPLETED THE TOUR SUCCESSFULLY!.

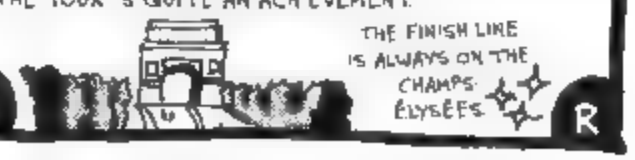
IT WAS ACTUALLY THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY THAT A JAPANESE CYCLIST MADE IT ALL THE WAY TO PARIS IN THE TOUR...! ARASHIRO-SAN!! BEPPU-SAN! **THANK YOU SO MUCH** FOR ACCOMPLISHING THIS DEEPLY EMOTIONAL FEAT!. I REALLY LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING WHAT YOU GO ON TO ACCOMPLISH IN THE FUTURE.

INCIDENTALLY, THE FULL COURSE IS RACED OVER A 23-DAY PERIOD (21 STAGES WITH TWO REST DAYS INTERSPERSED). THE COURSE CHANGES EVERY YEAR. THIS MEANS THERE ARE BIDDING WARS TO HAVE THE TOUR PASS THROUGH VARIOUS CITIES EVERY YEAR TOO!

↖ IT TAKES PLACE IN JULY ANNUALLY.

SINCE IT TAKES PLACE DURING SUMMER VACATION, LOTS OF PEOPLE COME TO WATCH THE TOUR. EVERY SPECTATOR SEEMS TO BE WATCHING THE RACE WITH A BEER OR GLASS OF WINE IN THEIR HAND, SO IT MAKES FOR A VERY LIVELY ATMOSPHERE. IT'S LIKE A SUPER-LONG FESTIVAL.

THE CYCLISTS RIDE A TOTAL OF 3,500KM (WHICH WOULD BE LIKE GOING FROM AOMORI TO TOKYO THEN ACROSS TO YAMAGUCHI AND BACK!) DURING A FLAT STAGE, THE CYCLISTS RIDE OVER 200KM IN A SINGLE DAY, SO FIRST AND FOREMOST, YOU NEED TO BE IN REALLY GOOD SHAPE OR YOU'LL END UP HAVING TO WITHDRAW PARTWAY THROUGH THE RACE (QUITE A FEW CYCLISTS DROP OUT EVERY YEAR). IT'S ACTUALLY PRETTY TOUGH MAKING IT THROUGH THE TWENTY-THREE-DAY RACE AND CROSSING THE FINISH LINE IN PARIS. (THE TOUR ALWAYS ENDS IN PARIS, BY THE WAY.) JUST COMPLETING THE TOUR IS QUITE AN ACHIEVEMENT.



THE EXCITING SUMMER OF THE 2009 TOUR DE FRANCE!

(IT REALLY WAS!)

← CONTADOR, THE LEGENDARY LANCE ARMSTRONG'S RETURN TO RACING, THE SCHLECK BROTHERS ANDY AND FRANK, EVANS, CANCELLARA, AND SO ON. THE 2009 TOUR DE FRANCE WAS REALLY A RACE PACKED WITH ALL-STARS.

Translation Notes

Common Honorifics
-san: The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.
-kun: Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.
-chan: An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity, used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.
-senpai: A suffix used to address upperclassmen or more experienced co-workers.
no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.

A kilometer is approximately .6 of a mile.

PAGE 9
Hakogaku: This phrase, present on all Hakone Academy uniforms, is a shortened version of the school's name in Japanese (*Hakone Gakuen*).

PAGE 13
Hakone: A town located in a mountainous area of Kanagawa Prefecture, it's popular among tourists for its scenic views and hot springs.

Peloton: A cycling term for the "pack," or the main group of riders in a race.

PAGE 14
Shimane: A prefecture in the Chuugoku region of Japan, it has no relation to China, which is also called *Chuugoku* in Japanese. Shimane is located along the sea of Japan, and is home to the country's oldest shrine, Iwami Ginzan.

PAGE 57
Uphill roads: *Sakamichi* means "hilly road."

PAGE 61
Kyoto: Former capital of Japan located in the Kansai region. It's known for its plethora of traditional Japanese architecture, having come out of World War II relatively unscathed.

PAGE 68
Wussyzumi: In the Japanese version, Midojsuji calls Imaizumi "Yowaizumi," playing off of the Japanese word for weak (*yowai*).

PAGE 77
Naive-zumi: This time, in the Japanese version, Midojsuji refers to Imaizumi as "Amaizumi." *Amai* means soft or naive.

PAGE 79
Goofs Midousuji uses the term *zaku* in the Japanese version, which means "assorted vegetables for *sukiyaki* hot pot." It refers to the rest of Kyoto-Fushimi being there to serve Midousuji

PAGE 124
Tour: The Tour de France, the most famous bicycle racing event in the world.

Giro: The Giro d'Italia. Located in Italy, it is one of the three most prestigious, largest bicycle racing events in the world along with the Tour de France and the Vuelta a España

PAGE 163
Kanazawa: Located in the Hokuriku region in the northwestern part of Japan's main island. Like Kyoto, Kanazawa preserved most of its traditional architecture by avoiding heavy damage during World War II

PAGE 206
Chiba: A prefecture in the Kantou region of Japan. Chiba has both long stretches of mountains and large areas of flat plains, and is known for having mild summers and winters

PAGE 371
Fumiyuki Beppu: A Japanese professional bicycle racer who was on Team Skil Shimano from 2008–2009. Since 2014, he has been on Team Trek Factory Racing

Team Skil Shimano: A professional German cycling team. Its name has changed numerous times. As of 2017, it is known as Team Sunweb

Yukiya Arashiro: Two-time winner of the Japanese National Road Race Championships. Arashiro was on Team BBox Bouygues Telecom from 2009–2015, and as of 2017 is on Team Bahrain-Merida

Team BBox Bouygues Telecom: Originally named Bonjour, this particular name was used from 2009–2010. The team is currently known as Team Direct Énergie.

Contador: Alberto Contador, a Spanish professional cyclist who was the fifth person to ever win cycling's triple crown—the Tour de France (2007), the Giro d'Italia (2008), and the Vuelta a España (2008).

Andy and Fränk Schleck: Brothers and former professional cyclists from Luxembourg

Evans: Cadel Evans, an Australian former professional cyclist and winner of the 2011 Tour de France

Cancellara: Fabian Cancellara, a former Swiss road bicycle racer who won the opening stage of the Tour de France five times.

YOWAMUSHI PEDAL VOLUME 6

Read on for a sneak peek of Volume 6, available August 2017!

RIDE.87 HAKONE

RIDE.87 HAKONE

SAKAMICHI
YOWAMUSHI PEDAL

BEYOND THAT MOUNTAIN LIES THE FINISH LINE FOR DAY ONE!!

LOOOM

...WE'LL HAVE TO CLIMB WHILE FIGHTING!!

THAT'S WHERE—

CLUTCH

SQUEEZE

RUMBLE

RUMMBLE

MOUNT...

...HAKONE!!

CONSIDERING MY STRENGTH, I MIGHT HAVE TO CALL IT QUITS AT SOME POINT!!

HOW HARD IS THAT GOING TO BE?

ZOOOSH

BABUMP

BABUMP

BUT I'LL DO IT!!

EVERYONE'S SAYING NARUKO-KUN AND TADOKORO-SAN RODE THEIR HARDEST TO TAKE THE FLATS STAGE FOR US.

SO I WANT TO USE MY CLIMBING TO BE OF HELP TO MY TEAM SOMEHOW !!

...BUT I DO KNOW THAT "CLIMBING" IS MY STRONG SUIT.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT MY FULL ABILITIES ARE...

SOHOKU

SO I NEED TO DO THE SAME!!

IN THE MOUNTAINS...

HERE, IN HAKONE!!

JIHOKU

FWOOM

WE'VE CAUGHT UP. ....

...HEH!!

KEH KEH KEH!!
NARUKO-KUN!!
GAH-HA-HA! I DID IT, KINJOU!
YEAH!!
LOOK AT YOU, PULLING THE ENTIRE PELOTON! NICE, IMAIZUMI!!
THANK YOU.
WOW!!
WE DOMINATED THAT EYELASHES GUY FROM HAKONE ACADEMY!
REALLY?
TADOKORO-CCHIII—!!
ZIUUP
THOOM
NARU-KO-KUN!!
SOHOKU
KANZAKI

UH, THAT SAID, HOTSHOT— THE OLD MAN HERE HAD TO PUSH HIMSELF PRETTY HARD.

GAH-HA-HA-HA! YOU'RE ONLY NOTICING NOW? I'M A TOP CONTENDER, YA KNOW!!?

GOOD WORK. YOU REALLY ARE... AMAZING.

SHADDAP!! YOU WERE THE ONE STRAINING BACK THERE!

THAT VINDICATES OUR LOSSES FROM LAST YEAR A LITTLE, AT LEAST.

SMACK

YOU REALLY DID IT!!

GAH-HA-HA-HA!

NARUKO-KUN...

I REALLY AM A STEP AHEAD OF HOTSHOT HERE, HUH !!?

GAH-HA-HA!

KEH-KEH-KEH!

AND THEIR JERSEYS ARE ALL MESSED UP TOO...

TADOKORO-SAN...IS COMPLETELY DRENCHED IN SWEAT.

...FOR THE TEAM.

CLENCH

THEY RODE THAT HARD...

SOHOKU

総北高校

旧校章 自転車部

ZHIIP

BUT MAN...

...WHAT A SIGHT, RIDING AT THE HEAD OF THE ENTIRE PELOTON.

SMACK

IT'S THANKS TO YOU TWO—YOU DID YOUR JOB AND WON US THE RIGHT TO RIDE HERE!!

YEAH...

IT REALLY IS.

TO BE CONTINUED IN YOWAMUSHI PEDAL VOLUME 6

YOWAMUSHI PEDAL 5

WATARU WATANABE

Translation: Su Mon Han

Lettering: Lys Blakeslee, Brndn Blakeslee

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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